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The Week.

CONGRESS has just closed a session of only twenty-six days' duration, in which little actual business has been done, and which nevertheless has been one of peculiar interest, and of a character without precedent. This has been the first instance in the history of the country of an extra session of one Congress ordered by its predecessor, or indeed, so far as we now remember, of any extra session ordered by Congress at all. The motives for the measure are perfectly well understood, and have been fully justified by the events of the last six weeks. It is entirely to the fact of this extra session that we owe the now assured reconstruction of the country, as well as the success of minor but still important measures, such as the reform in the tenure of civil office, the disbandment of Southern militia, etc. All these bills must inevitably have failed, if the certain approach of the Fortieth Congress had not made "pocket vetoes" alike useless to the cause and dangerous to the personal interests of the Executive. So complete was the success of the warning implied in the call of this extra session that but little was left for it to do. Fortunately for the country, all efforts to induce Congress to take up at this session the questions of the tariff and the currency were entirely unsuccessful. Such matters could not have received sufficient consideration had they been taken up; and the commercial interests of the nation would almost certainly have suffered from any action of Congress. Bad as our present fixed system is, we fear that legislation is only likely to make it worse. The reputation of the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Congresses must rest upon their settlement of the issues between the North and South, and not upon their disposition of financial questions.

THERE is a good deal of apprehension in many quarters as to the effect of the Connecticut election on the temper of the South; but we doubt very much whether there is much ground for it. The majorities with which the State has been carried for some years back have been too

small to make its defection look very serious. And, at all events, the election can, as every Southerner of ordinary intelligence must see, exercise absolutely no appreciable influence on the process of reconstruction now pending, inasmuch as it exercises no appreciable influence on the Congress which is to sit for the next two years.

THERE is some talk of a movement to ask the Supreme Court to grant an injunction against Andrew Johnson, to prevent his carrying out the Reconstruction bill—which reads very much like the very poor story which went the rounds of the papers two or three years ago of a Greek lawyer, who had applied to the Supreme Court at Athens for a reversal of the judgment on Socrates. But it would do much good if the bill could in some way be got before the court, so that it might pass once for all on the extent of its own powers, and thus deliver some of the Southern politicians from the hopes of judicial interference by which they are now afflicted.

BEYOND a doubt, Mr. Butler succeeded in astonishing the public at large, and to all appearance he astonished Mr. Bingham too, when he got Booth's diary before the House. The diary in question is one of the ordinary morocco-covered note-books, pretty well filled with writing, and was found in Booth's bosom when he was captured. When it came into Judge-Advocate-General Holt's hands for use in the trial of the conspirators, some of the first pages were missing. It was "spoliated," Mr. Butler says, and he insinuated, after a fashion that a district attorney might envy, that Mr. Johnson was the "spoliator." Whether he was or not, nobody knows, and nobody is likely to know. Booth himself may have cut the pages out, or soldiers may have taken them for mementoes, or unlikelier things than these are more likely than that Mr. Johnson was in a plot to have Mr. Lincoln murdered. Mr. Bingham seemed to know nothing about the diary, and, whoever is to blame for the "spoliation," he probably is not. Mr. Butler's real end was answered, however. He has not got very much the better of Mr. Bingham in their squabble, but he has kept himself very prominently in the public eye, and shown his peculiar abilities in full exercise.

THE Maryland Republicans are calling on Congress to do for them what they would not do for themselves, though they were entreated, and though they had superabundant power. In resolutions passed in party convention, and in others passed by the Republican members of the General Assembly, they beg Congress to interfere and "protect the loyal majority of the people of Maryland, white and colored." Loyalty was as valid a reason for forgetting color two years ago as it is now, and the Maryland Republicans might then have done what Congress will not do and cannot do—what, at any rate, the Republican party will not undertake to do. Their case is bad, and much to be regretted; but so far as concerns the white loyalists of the State, it is hardly possible to resist saying that they are served right. Twenty years from now, and after much up-hill work, they may get what, a couple of years ago, a vote in the Legislature would have given them.

THE recent Republican Convention in North Carolina, composed of white and black delegates, seems to have been a body eminently respectable for numbers, for honesty of purpose, and for ability. Old General Dockery was made president; but probably that was because he is aged, respectable, of considerable local importance, and in 1861 was "good Union." We fear he thinks the colored voter ought to be moved to South America. It is not long since he would have made

that disposition of the colored laborer. And Mr. W. W. Holden was put at the head of the executive state committee of the party; but he has been provisional governor, owns a paper—the *Raleigh Standard*—and deserves the credit of bitterly hating the present government of the State. Mr. Settle we take to be a clever and good-hearted young man, and a politician of a good deal of ability and some experience. John Pool is an able man, and sure to be heard of in the future political history of North Carolina; Lewis Thompson is a gentleman of influence and ability; Mr. Heaton is very well spoken of; and many of the other prominent white delegates are at least sensible men and men of character. In the list of colored delegates we see the name of J. H. Harris and that of Mr. J. W. Hood, both men of excellent abilities, and whose services will be valuable to their party. The platform, like all Republican platforms in Border States, contains some denunciation of treason and traitors, and of secession and all its works, and some glorification of the Union. For the rest, it asserts the right of free discussion and the right of all citizens of the United States to the ballot. We are very glad to see this movement begun; in North Carolina we suppose nearly half the vote of the State can be controlled by it; and we suppose that in whatever State the new party does not take definite form and become aggressive, many of the bad features of the old political reign of slavery will be perpetuated.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Pennsylvania, is the only place in the world in which the Fenians have thus far succeeded in establishing a territorial sovereignty, and it is in virtue of their possession of that district that they are, if at all, entitled to belligerent rights. It appears they have there inaugurated a reign of terror, having during the past month murdered fifty respectable and inoffensive persons with impunity. The remnant of the decent people have petitioned Governor Geary for protection, and he has laid their case before the Legislature.

GENERAL ROUSSEAU is said to have done very good service during the war. We suppose there are plenty of men who could tell off-hand where it was he distinguished himself, and just how much glory belongs to him. In all probability there are official documents, too, that gauge his merits, and prove him to be a brave man and a good enough officer. As to our own knowledge of his record, we confess that it is somewhat vague. But we should not have been particularly surprised at his nomination for a brigadiership in the regular army, and should have maintained the silence becoming the civilian in regard to it, if last summer Mr. Rousseau had not—we will not say thrashed Mr. Grinnell for words spoken in debate, but gone out attended by two or three friends, while Mr. Grinnell was alone, armed while Mr. Grinnell was defenceless, and made an assault, the manner of which disgraced the assailant as the assault itself disgraced the House of which Rousseau and Grinnell were members. All this ought to be remembered against him, and any one of a dozen generals, good as he as military men, and not notorious for any piece of mixed absurdity and ruffianism, might a great deal better have the office.

AN elaborate, and in parts amusing, appeal has been made to General Grant by the Rev. George Trask, of Fitchburg, praying him to stop smoking, and using every variety of argument—physiological, moral, historical, and religious—against the habit. Smoking may be a bad habit, but there is considerable difficulty in making out a good case against it as regards its effects on health, and its enemies are apt to damage their cause by trying to prove too much. One of the first authorities in America on diseases of the nerves approves of it, which shows that even doctors differ about it; and well they may, considering that the civilized world has smoked hard for two hundred years and the bills of mortality have gone on falling all the time. The example of Turkish lethargy, too, is fairly set off by the example of Prussian vigor. If there be tougher brains in the world than those of German scholars, we do not know where to find them; and some of the most enthusiastic of German scholars are amongst the most persistent smokers. We are not arguing now in defence of smoking. We are simply deprecating the air of mathematical certainty which too many social reformers seek

to throw over their reasonings on subjects about which demonstration, or, in fact, anything more than guessing, is impossible.

AN agitation has begun on a small scale by working-men in New York for legislative interference with rents, which are alleged, and truly, to be enormously high, so high as to produce great suffering and disease amongst the poor. But we believe they are not higher on the average than the enormous rate of taxation and high cost of building materials will justify. There is but one way of lowering rents in New York, and that is by reforming the city government. If this were done, not only would the taxes be lowered, but better paving and cleansing would quadruple or quintuple the space available for comfortable human habitation. It is melancholy to see how readily the working-men are cheated by newspaper twaddle about extortion into the belief that the Legislature can relieve them from the natural operation of the laws of trade. Of course, if capitalists were not allowed to charge for houses what would cover taxation and repairs and insurance and leave them a good profit, there would soon be an end to house-building, and houses will be dearer than ever. There are some signs that if some of the working-men could have their way, we should before long have, first, the hours of labor regulated by law; then, as production fell off, wages regulated by law; then, as prices began to rise under diminished production, prices regulated by law—till at last there would be nothing left unregulated except the hours of our meals.

RUSSIAN AMERICA is inhabited by fifty thousand fishing, trapping, fur-bearing Esquimaux, and nine or ten thousand Russians, Russian Americans, and people whom the gazetteers call Aleoots and Kodiaks. They import a good part of their provisions, and export a yearly diminishing quantity of furs. The country is a frozen wilderness, better known to arctic explorers and whalers than to most other men, and probably of no possible value to any men but them, the semi-civilized tribes that support existence there, and the Russian sutlers who trade with them. The territory is rather larger than eight States like New York would be, its area being 394,000 square miles. What we want of it, unless to take a solitude and call it Seward by erecting it into a Territory, we do not know, but we can buy the privilege of flying the stars and stripes over a colony, and a worthless colony, by paying seven millions of dollars for it. This we suppose Congress will not do. There is no good reason for doing it, and several good reasons for not doing it. We do not want far-distant, detached colonies, nor ice and snow territories, nor Esquimaux fellow-citizens, nor Mt. Saint Elias, and there is nothing else to be had from Alaska and Barrow's Point, so far as we are informed. The Czar's intentions, aside from his design of getting the seven millions in gold, are doubtful. It may be that he thinks New Archangel not worth the powder and shot he may have to expend in its defense in case of a new Eastern war. It may be that he wants to impress Europe with the idea of the closeness of friendship that must exist between Russia and a country for whose sake Russia cuts off a limb. European statesmen, however, will hardly sleep the worse on account of the phantom of an alliance between this country and Russia, and the Czar himself probably knows that, not to put too fine a point on it, the people of the United States know little and care less about Russia. But with all these considerations we have no concern. We are to consider our own interests, say yes or no to Mr. Seward's chimerical project of saddling us with a frozen desert of a colony—and we imagine there will be little difficulty in choosing the right answer.

THE telegraph announced a few days ago that the English reform bill had "passed to a second reading," as if this was something very important. The fact is, however, that the first reading of a bill in the House of Commons is a mere matter of form. The fate of the bill is settled in the debate on the second reading, which in this case has yet to come. It appears, as we said last week, pretty certain that the bill will be lost, and if it is, Lord Derby announces his intention of dissolving Parliament and appealing to the country. The English papers are filled with discussions of what is the main feature of the measure; that

is, "dual" or "cumulative voting," which is neither more nor less than a device for enabling the upper classes to preserve their power, while admitting the working classes to the franchise, and it is founded on the old theory, that the majority are the natural and irreconcilable enemies of the minority, and that the latter must be armed with some special means of defence. The dual vote is the rock on which the bill is likely to make shipwreck. It gives an extra vote to all persons paying direct taxes—that is, all the middle and upper classes—thus creating a most exasperating distinction between them and the class below. When every man who possessed a certain amount of property, or lived in a certain kind of house, voted, it might have been said that this qualification was a good though rough test of his fitness. But, under the system of cumulative voting, the working-man is told, after he has qualified himself for one vote, that his neighbor must have two—not because he is twice as intelligent or well educated, but because he is richer. Of course there is little chance of a distinction so odious being enacted, or, if enacted, remaining long in force. Mr. Gladstone denounces it with justice as likely to "excite a war of classes." The excitement is evidently increasing, and the agitation will probably end in a more radical reform than any that was at first anticipated. Governor Eyre has been, as was expected, discharged after a short examination before the Warwickshire magistrates, with whom he had probably been dining every day for the previous fortnight.

THE two great events of the week in France have been the speeches of Thiers and of Persigny. That of Thiers was a very brilliant and sharp attack on the foreign policy of the Empire, bristling with points and happy hits—the stand-point from which the subject was viewed being that of a statesman of the Palmerston order, and of the time of Louis Philippe, and the central idea being that the loss of one state is the gain of another, and that it is the duty of each to do what it can to keep others down. For instance, he loudly proclaimed that had he been at the head of affairs, he never would have consented to the unification of Italy. The speech in many ways revealed the weak points of the Orleanist régime. Persigny's was a somewhat ridiculous attack on parliamentary government, in which he compared the relations in which the Executive in this country stands to the Legislature to those in which the Emperor stands to the Corps Législatif.

THERE is nothing new about the Turkish question, unless it be news to say that trouble is still brewing. Russia has taken very strong ground in published despatches in behalf of the Turkish Christians, and the Sultan seems really frightened and to be trying in a feeble way to make reforms. The Servians are making desperate efforts to secure the withdrawal of the Turks from the fortress of Belgrade, but the Turks naturally hesitate, as the garrison is the only protection which the Mussulmans of Bosnia possess to prevent their being cut off from Constantinople by Servia and Montenegro in case of a Christian rising.

THAT distinctive attention to the affairs of the freedmen which, almost from the establishment of THE NATION, we have given in our review of the week, we purpose discontinuing hereafter. The passage of the Military and Supplemental Reconstruction acts does not, indeed, abate our interest in the progress and well-being of the colored people of the South, but does, we think, justify us in ceasing to treat them longer as separate from their white fellow-citizens, with whom they now stand in complete equality under the law of the United States. This is the least recognition we can make of the surprising revolution which the South has precipitated on herself; and though we fully anticipate much trial and suffering for the freedmen before they are absolutely secure in the exercise of their newly-acquired rights, and able to make an intelligent use of them, we think we can best assist them by recalling their color and once peculiar status as seldom as possible, and merging their sectional in their national relations. Whenever, as laborers or voters, they deserve especial consideration, we shall be prompt, as heretofore, to give it, in one or other department of this journal.

CONNECTICUT TEACHING.

IF it were not for the inveterate habit of exaggeration with which many of the "great dailies" are afflicted, there would not be anything very disheartening in the result of the Connecticut election. It is, perhaps, desirable, on grounds of expediency, to represent the fate of the nation as dependent on a particular election; but then, when all is over and the election has gone the wrong way, it is somewhat difficult to get people who have been thus worked up into frantic enthusiasm to believe that the matter is really of little or no consequence, and has no meaning whatever. There are in Connecticut 90,000 registered voters, of whom 25,000 are ignorant foreigners, who are on the same side in every struggle, and on whom arguments, facts, and events produce absolutely no impression. It is against this rising tide—for it is a rising tide—of political stupidity and immorality that the Republicans of the State have had to fight for the last six or seven years—and a hard fight they have had of it, escaping defeat even in the most glorious years of the war by only a few hundreds. But it must not be forgotten that in States like Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania, in which the two great parties are nearly equal in strength, the triumph of either side by a small majority does not in reality indicate any change whatever in the feelings or opinions of the main body of the voters. In Connecticut, for instance, the issue of each election depends in reality on about one thousand persons, who are not attached to either party by strong ties of conviction or feeling, but vote with one or the other as they happen to be pleased or displeased by the conduct of the majority during the previous year, caring little or nothing about the great principles which underlie the struggle. They usually consist in about equal proportions of fastidious people, lukewarm people, and corrupt people. The main body, of course, are persons who are too strongly impressed with the importance of the issues to be shaken by ordinary events, and only change their party at revolutionary periods like that in which the Republican party took its rise.

Now it is just because in closely contested States, like Connecticut, the decision at every election is in the hands of a small and uncertain body of persons who are easily disgusted and alienated, that we have, during the past year, so often taken the liberty of suggesting to the majority in Congress a careful use of its enormous power. It was because great majorities are so strongly tempted to abuse their power that we hinted the other day, *apropos* of Mr. P. T. Barnum's nomination, that that majority was perhaps too large for the good of the party, and that it would have acted more wisely if it had acted in the presence of a stronger opposition. The gagging of the minority on so many occasions by sheer force of numbers, in the guise of the "previous question," without the slightest necessity and without any better result than the production of irritation and a sense of wrong; the hasty and often reckless legislation which was pushed through by the same means; and the efforts made to bring impeachment into use as a weapon of party warfare, have all doubtless had their effect in driving off that small body of voters on which, in some States, the Republican party has to depend for its victories, but on which its hold at the best of times is very insecure. The party has a magnificent history, and may, with ordinary discretion, look forward to a magnificent future, because its basis is justice and right; but its tenure of power is saddled with the same conditions as that of all other parties. It was guilty in Connecticut of the folly of nominating Mr. P. T. Barnum for Congress. He ran considerably behind his ticket, a large number of voters having had the good sense and virtue to "scratch" him, which we trust will next time serve as a lesson to nominating conventions. The party can only gain in the long run by such examples, and can only be saved by respect for character as a political force. The big war drum which *The Tribune* is in the habit of beating at every election, makes a splendid noise, but it does not make wrong right. The main cause of the Republican defeat was, after all, the stand the party has taken on equal suffrage, and it is better to be defeated on this than triumph on many other things. The election even of English is a prodigious advance on the part of the Democrats since 1863 or 1864, and General Hawley has the consolation of knowing that the cause he has served so long and so well is still sure of final triumph.

Notes.

LITERARY.

BEFORE the summer heats and the dulness of trade put a stop to publishing for some months, our New York publishers will give us a few books. "Italian Journeys through Ferrara, Genoa, Naples, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Capri, Grossetta, Pisa, and Florence, with Excursions to some memorable places in Northern Italy," is the title of a volume by Mr. W. D. Howells which Messrs. Hurd & Houghton will issue very soon. Readers of *The Atlantic Monthly* and of this journal have already once enjoyed these sketches, and will heartily welcome their reappearance; they well deserve a place beside the same author's excellent "Venetian Life." Messrs. Leypoldt & Holt will be ready, in the second week of April, to give the public the "Frithiof's Saga" in an English dress. The translation is the Rev. W. A. Blackley's, and Mr. Bayard Taylor has furnished an introduction and notes. People who have read Mr. Hepworth Dixon's work on the abnormal relations between the two sexes in various parts of America, will be interested in a little essay, the joint work of Carlier, of Paris, and Dr. J. Jeffries, a well known physician of Boston, which is entitled "Marriage in the United States." De Vries & Ibarra, of Boston, publish the volume, and Messrs. Leypoldt & Holt are the New York agents. Messrs. D. Appleton & Co. promise the immediate publication of "The History of the Navy during the Rebellion," an illustrated work in two octavo volumes, by the Rev. Charles B. Boynton, the well-known chaplain of the House of Representatives, who is also a professor at the U. S. Naval Academy. The engravings are to be numerous, some in chromotints, some on steel, some on wood, and among them will be many maps and charts from Government surveys and official plans. The same house publish a small edition—not more than three hundred copies—of the "Political Writings of Richard Cobden," with a brief preface by Wm. Cullen Bryant. It is in two volumes, and the price of the work is six dollars. Du Chaillu's late journey into equatorial Africa has resulted in a volume of five hundred pages, which Messrs. Appleton republish and will issue on the 6th inst. The expedition was brought by the savages to an untimely end, and "the great zoölogical traveller" has not this time added much to what we already knew of Western Africa in the torrid zone. Besides these works, Messrs. Appleton have in press another of the numerous Mühlbach historical novels, "Frederick the Great and his Family," and a novel, "Sybil's Second Love," by Julia Kavanagh. Messrs. Scribner & Co. announce for Saturday next the last two volumes of Froude's "History of England," and W. J. Paulding's life of his father, James K. Paulding, who flourished—if it can be said that he flourished at all—in the days of "Salmagundi," when American literature was very infantile indeed.

—It might puzzle Mr. Friedrich Kapp to mention a nation or tribe of men which has not given its great men indiscriminate and fulsome adulation. In an article on Washington's character, which he contributes to *The Historical Magazine* for March, he charges the fault upon Americans in the case of Washington, and somewhat severely animadvertes upon it. Mr. Jared Sparks specifically he denounces for "falsifying the record of Washington's life and of American history." It is within his personal knowledge that Mr. Sparks suppressed some passages in certain autograph letters of Washington which Mr. Kapp has seen, and tampered with other passages, in order to make the hero appear more devoted as a Christian than he really was and more conversant with the requirements of modern propriety. In one of the future articles promised from his pen, Mr. Kapp may perhaps be more explicit both as regards Washington and as regards his New England biographer.

—Mr. Edward McPherson, Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives, announces that he has in press a "Political Manual for 1867," which will take up our political history where his last manual ended, July 4, 1866, and carry it down to April 1 of the current year, or the end of the present session of Congress. He has compiled it from official sources, promises that it shall be accurate and fair, and believes that it will be useful to men of all parties. Mr. McPherson's per-

formances have thus far never disappointed those who have trusted his prospectuses. His political history of the rebellion and his Manual for 1866 were and will remain the completest and most valuable collections of the kind ever made in this country. The Manual for 1866 records the Presidential attempt at reconstruction, and the beginning of Mr. Johnson's rupture with Congress as foreshadowed in his speech of the 23d of February. The forthcoming Manual will embrace the famous tour to Chicago, the assertion by Congress of its right to reorganize the Union in its own way and time, and the ineffectual opposition of Mr. Johnson. It will also present the doings of the two conventions at Philadelphia, the reports of the committee on the New Orleans massacre, the judicial opinions in the Milligan case, and, in short, all the most important documents that illustrate the interesting period just expiring, and by which the political events of the ensuing year are to be very largely shaped and determined.

—The U. S. Sanitary Commission is now publishing, through Messrs. Hurd & Houghton, "The Record of the Metropolitan Fair," an account of the great fair of 1864. The work would have appeared in the spring of 1865 instead of 1867 had it not been for the preoccupations of the secretaries of the fair and of the persons who were expected to write it. But it is now here, having been prepared with care and all possible promptness by Mr. John Safford Fiske, aided by Mr. Eugene Schuyler, who have produced a work very much more readable and entertaining than such chronicles are apt to be. It is a large-paper octavo volume of 250 pages, adorned with photographic views—some of them very good indeed—of the buildings and booths.

—The proposal that a royalty should be paid the author of a book on each copy sold by the publisher is Mr. James Spedding's contribution towards the settlement of the ancient quarrel between authors and publishers. To this *The Spectator* wants a rider added in the interest of the publishers, and, considering the vexations which the present system imposes on the *genus irritabile*, in the interest of the authors also. The royalty ought not to be paid, *The Spectator* thinks, unless the sale of the book exceeds a certain limit, which limit, of course, will be one thing in one case and another in another, and in all cases will be fixed by the publisher. "This is the 'half profits' system, with one all-important difference." In this country, in the case of authors not well known, there is the widest diversity in the terms offered. A form of *The Spectator's* plan is not seldom tried, the author getting a specified per-centage of the retail price after so many hundred copies are sold, he to pay all expenses on presentation of the bills. The translation now in the American market of a certain well-known foreign book is published under this agreement: the translator pays for stereotyping, for paper, and for everything, material or labor, necessary in the manufacture of the book; he agrees to furnish so many pages of copy each day and to correct so many; and he gets one-half of the price of each copy sold. He stipulates that no demand for money, except a certain small fraction of the whole expense, shall be made on him until so many months after the stereotyping is completed. The contracts are made in writing under seal, and though such as we have seen might well enough make an unknown author despondent, they set forth details so fully that quarrelling about their provisions would seem difficult.

—Mr. John Hill Burton, who is known to many American readers as the author of a very pleasant book called "The Book-Hunter," has now put forth four volumes of what will probably be for a long time the history of his native country. Its title is "The History of Scotland from Agricola's Invasion to the Revolution of 1688," and the fourth volume brings the work down to the abdication of Mary. It seems that there is more of the Scotch dryness than of the *ingenium perfervidum Scotorum* in the book. About the long line of Scottish monarchs whose portraits may be seen at Holyrood, Mr. Burton is perfectly incredulous. He wisely shirks the question whether the Pict was a Teuton or a Celt, and it is not easy to know with exactness whether he thinks the theory that brings the first Pict from an island in the Danube more or less valuable than that which assigns him his cradle in Hindostan. Of St. Serf he says that he "had a reputation for the neatness and appropriateness of his miracles." Not that this dry humor is in excess; the history is praised for clear and sometimes picturesque

narration, for prevailing good sense, for being calm, unbiassed, even over-judicial, and purely historical—praise not to be given any other history of Scotland.

—Among the recent announcements of English books are, by Messrs. Longmans, "Short Studies on Great Subjects," by James Anthony Froude, the historian, including essays on Job, Spinoza, Homer, Wolsey; another volume of "Dissertations and Discussions, Political, Philosophical, and Historical," by John Stuart Mill, M.P. Messrs. Low & Son announce the speedy publication of "On the Heights," by Berthold Auerbach, being the first three volumes of Tauchnitz's new series of English translations from German authors. Chapman & Hall have on their list "Nights in the Harem," by Emmeline Lott, authoress of the very entertaining "Harem Life in Egypt and Turkey;" "Church Embroidery," by Anastasia Dolby; and "The English Constitution," by Walter Bagehot, a reprint of his very valuable and interesting articles in *The Fortnightly Review*. We hope this book will be reprinted in this country. Macmillan & Co. will soon publish two new books by the Rev. Charles Kingsley, "The Water of Life, and other Sermons," and "On the Ancient Régime as it existed on the Continent before the French Revolution," being three lectures delivered at the Royal Institution; "Essays on Reform," by Lord Houghton, Thomas Hughes, M.P., Frederick Harrison, Leslie Stephen, Goldwin Smith, and others; and a new volume of the Golden Treasury Series, "La Lyre Française," edited by Gustave Masson. Mr. J. Russell Smith has in press, to be published in ten parts, "A Bibliographical Hand-book to the Earlier Popular Poetical and Dramatic Literature of Great Britain to 1660," edited by W. Carew Hazlitt. The Queen is said to be revising for publication a book which has lately been privately circulated at court, "Leaves from my Journal in the Highlands," and has written a preface to an account of the late Prince Consort by General Grey, which has been printed but not circulated.

—In the department of history of old classical literature the most noticeable recent German work is Kleine's "Geschichte der Drama" (History of the Drama), of which four volumes have appeared; the first three treat of the subject to the eleventh century, and the fourth of the Italian drama to the Renaissance in the sixteenth century. Prof. Haupt says that this is the most fundamental, the most learned, and the cleverest work that has appeared in the century; that it contains a fulness of new ideas, and for the history of the later Greek comedies forms the capstone to all investigations. With all deference to such an authority, we can only conditionally subscribe to such a verdict, for Professor Westphal, in Breslau, having finished his elaborate work on the Greek Metric and Rhythmic systems, has sent out a number of others in the same field. First, a revision of the work on rhythm, in which he places Aristoxenes as the sole deciding standard, differing from Caesar, of Marburg, who takes Aristides as his standard. In "Geschichte der alten Musik" (History of Ancient Music) Westphal has made a most ingenious attempt to show that the ancients were acquainted with harmony as well as with melody, and that the metric of the Greeks corresponds to the tact system of the moderns. The third section of his work contains Plutarch's "De Musica," accompanied by a new critique and a commentary worthy to be considered a model.

—Of new German works on Latin and Greek grammar, the first volume of Neue's "Formenlehre der lateinischen Sprache" (Grammar of Latin Forms) treats of declension, and contains a most complete repertory of the Latin forms in the old classics, and also a survey and history of the Latin forms from the inscriptions and monuments down to the time of the Antonines. A short treatise on the same subject is Bücheler's "Grundriss d. lat. Declination" (Sketch of the Latin Declination). It is founded entirely upon the forms in Plautus. The "Kritische Nachträge z. lat. Formenlehre" (Critical Supplement to the Grammar of Latin Forms), by W. Corssen, is the most extended history of Latin grammar since Schneider. Especial attention has been paid in it to the question how far the elder Latin forms of the inscriptions, of the comedies, and of Lucretius suffered a change through the influence of the Greek grammarians, and the result contradicts the teachings of former German philology. In Greek grammar the *Sprachvergleichende*, or comparative method, has effected a complete revolution. George Curtius, in Leipzig, was the first to introduce this

method into the schools, and his Greek school grammars, in spite of the protest of K. W. G. Krüger that they were a compilation from his own, have almost crowded their rivals out. His "Erläuterungen z. griech. Schulgrammatik" (Elucidations of Greek Grammars for Schools) contains such an excellent plan of instruction and so much more than any one would surmise from the title that it well deserves an English translation. An earlier edition of his school grammar was the basis of the widely-known Greek grammar by Mr. Hadley, of New Haven.

EDUCATIONAL.

A MEETING of the educational section of the American Social Science Association was held in Boston on the 13th of March at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Prof. Wm. B. Rogers presiding. A large number of influential persons were present, though the number from a distance was less than could be desired if the association is to be, as its name imports, a national and not a local body. Papers were read on deaf-mute instruction, on the New England high school, on reformatory schools for girls, on the provision for military instruction in the Congressional enactment of 1866, and on other topics, each of the essays being followed by a brief discussion. We hail it as a sign of coming improvements that gentlemen not concerned in teaching nor in the administration of school affairs are disposed to come together and quietly examine the principles which underlie our educational establishments, with a view to their advancement and improvement. The American Association for the Advancement of Social Science will accomplish much if it maintains a series of meetings for educational discussion which shall neither be teachers' institutes for the benefit of inexperienced young ladies nor mass meetings for the awakening of the community, but conferences of thoughtful and scholarly men reflecting the intellectual and moral advancement of the country.

—The West shares with the East the discussion of the question touching classical and scientific courses of education. In Michigan we observe the lectures of Mr. D. Bethune Duffield, of Detroit, whose views are quite as iconoclastic as those of "A Gothic Man," to which we have given expression in our recent issues. "Out here in the West," writes a correspondent, "we have long since dismissed the idea of infallibility in our colleges"—an implication which our conservative Faculties would probably repel, but which is at least suggestive of the true state of the case.

—Each new census of France reveals a deplorable tendency on the part of its rural population to flock to the cities, to Paris especially. They are lured thither by the wealth and glitter and amusement, the opportunities for speculation, the educational advantages, the hope of ease in return for a small expenditure of wit or labor. Cease demolishing and reconstructing Paris—it has been urged as a remedy for this evil—put a stop to Haussmannism at the capital, and improve the country roads. Stimulate the love of cultivating the soil, and teach the best methods and introduce the best machines. Lift up the rustic civilization, so far as material prosperity can do it, to the level of that enjoyed by the cities. To these voices M. Duruy, the Minister of Public Instruction, has just added his. In the session of the 2d of March he told the Corps Législatif:

"It is complained that the laborers are quitting the country for the cities; but we lavish on the cities all that can draw them there—the hospital, gratuitous instruction, the splendor of civilization. Something, then, must be done also for the tiller of the fields, who has nothing of all that, and who is nevertheless a social force."

It seems to us that similar doctrine would not be out of place in this country, where the growth of the cities at the expense of the rural districts is not yet alarming, but is perhaps demonstrable and at all events to be provided for. We do not urge the State to make every village so attractive that most men will be content to stay and work out their destiny in it; but we believe that in building noble school-houses, founding public libraries, and bestowing kindred endowments on their native towns, the men who have come to the city and made their wealth there will found their highest claims upon the gratitude of the nation. Let the chief attraction of the city be its opportunities for business, and let its superiority in culture and the means of amusement and self-improvement be so slight as to be of little weight.

SCHAFF'S HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.*

THE three centuries, from the conversion of Constantine to the accession of the first Gregory, present to the historian of the Church an immense wealth of materials. If, in the preceding period, his contemporary documents are comparatively few, so that he is often obliged to grope in the twilight, and substitute combination and conjecture in lieu of sure testimonies, the case is wholly altered on passing into the second era of the church's progress. Christianity from a persecuted sect becomes a dominating faith, and, in turn, employs coercion against heresy within its own pale and paganism without. Ecclesiastical history is henceforward inseparable from the history of the administration and fortunes of the great Roman Empire. Thus the field of view is widened. The second era is the fertile and productive period in the department of thought and discussion. The great writers of the first era, so far as their works are extant, may be counted on the fingers of one hand. The Latin Church produced no original theologian before Tertullian. But when we pass into the next stadium, we meet with the illustrious names of Augustine, Athanasius, Jerome, Chrysostom, Gregory Nazianzen, Gregory of Nyssa, Basil—and these are far from exhausting the catalogue. On the leading subjects of Christian theology, theology proper, or the Trinity and the person of Christ, and anthropology or the doctrine of sin, grace, and free-will as related to grace, the contributions to Christian thought are most rich and abundant. All that has been done since in these branches of the Christian system is little in comparison to what is furnished by this golden age of the Fathers. The mediæval period found work enough to do in the bare task of systematizing and reducing to a coherent whole the vast amount of theological matter which it received as a legacy from that fruitful age. It was the age of the great councils, beginning with Nicea; the age when the hierarchical system developed itself, when the Roman bishop became established in his ecclesiastical supremacy, and when monasticism ascended the Papal chair in the person of Gregory.

The advantages and difficulties of the historian are obvious even from this brief sketch. His means of information are ample; but the labor of mastering his materials and of shaping his narrative with a just method is proportionately serious. Dr. Schaff has thoroughly and successfully accomplished his task. The volumes that lie before us are replete with evidences of a careful study of the original sources, and of an extraordinary and, we might say, unsurpassed acquaintance with the modern literature—German, French, and English—in the department of ecclesiastical history. They are equally marked by a fair-minded, conscientious spirit, as well as by a lucid, animated mode of presentation. These volumes illustrate the possibility of depth in a German, without either obscurity or dryness. As concerns the history of theological doctrine, to which, as is proper, nearly the whole of one volume is devoted, we know of no treatise which, on the whole, is more satisfactory. A specimen of the author's discriminating habit is found in his account of the Arian controversy and of the Nicene orthodoxy. It is frequently, and by English writers generally, assumed that the Nicene Creed is in full agreement with the so-called Athanasian symbol, and with the later developed theology of Augustine on the point of the relation of the Son to the Father. This is not the place for a discussion of such a topic; but we will just remark that the terms of the creed of Chalcedon, wherein is affirmed the *homoousianism* of Christ as to his human nature with us, are sufficient to show that the word *homoousianism*, in the symbol of Nicea, does not of necessity imply numerical consubstantiality. It is often, but erroneously, assumed that the metaphysics of Athanasius are explicitly embodied in the creed. Dr. Schaff keeps clear of this misconception; and, while clearly expounding the theory of the great champion of the creed, he explicitly says: "The Nicene doctrine refuses to swerve from the monotheistic basis, and stands between sabellianism and tritheism; though it must be admitted that the usage of *ousia* and *hypostasis* still wavered for a time, and the relation of the consubstantiality to the numerical unity of the divine essence did not come clearly out till a later day" (Vol. III., p. 657). The Greek theology, in which the Father is the *fons et origo divinitatis*, and in which the subordination (though not in an Arian sense) of the Son to the Father is ever maintained, should never be confounded with the conception of the great Latin Father and with the doctrine of the Athanasian Creed, a later product of the Western Church. Dr. Schaff observes (Vol. III., p. 640, note) that John Milton cannot properly be termed Arian. But, in the celebrated posthumous treatise of Milton on "Christian Doctrine," he fully adopts the distinctively Arian statements respecting the person of Christ. After a careful examination of that treatise, we are entirely persuaded that Archbishop

Sumner was right in regarding it as the product of Milton's mature age, instead of being a youthful essay, as some have contended; and we are equally certain that the doctrine of it is both Arian and Arminian. In truth, an attentive reader of "Paradise Regained" will find in that poem clear traces of the same opinions.

The first of the two volumes before us opens with an animated description of the character and career of Constantine. The various hypotheses which have been broached concerning the real tenets and religious position of the imperial patron of Christianity are subjected to a critical examination. If we were to express any difference of judgment from Dr. Schaff on the subject of Constantine's conversion, it would be in the form of an objection to the decided manner in which our author casts away the theory of an optical illusion in connection with that event. It appears to us not at all improbable that, in conjunction with the vision or dream, there may have occurred a parheliion bearing enough resemblance to the cross to impose upon the disturbed fancy of the Emperor. The somewhat ambiguous position of Constantine with reference to the two religions is quite explicable. The situation in which he found himself when an aspirant for the imperial throne led him—with the vein of superstition that belonged to his nature—to give great prominence to Divine Providence, to the aid of the higher powers, among whom he found more and more cause to depend chiefly on the Christian's God. In the current Christian theology, the pagan divinities had a real existence; they were counted to be demons or evil beings. It was for this reason easier to mingle with a truly Christian belief more or less of a superstitious deference to the gods of the old mythology. The delay of Constantine's baptism arose from a prevalent superstitious notion of the efficacy of that rite in cancelling all transgression previously committed. But we must refer our readers to Dr. Schaff's able discussion, where they will find the material for an intelligent judgment upon the curious questions suggested by the conversion and religious course of a man who, if not great, at least played a most conspicuous part in human affairs.

It is difficult to write a history of the church—especially of the ancient church—without making rather a commentary upon the history than a consecutive, flowing narrative. Dr. Schaff has probably avoided this tendency as far as it was practicable to do so. His volumes are enlivened by biographical pictures of eminent men, and by instructive as well as entertaining information relative to Christian art and Christian worship. We do not hesitate to say that should he complete his work according to the plan indicated by the present volumes, he will have furnished the public with a history of the church which, while it satisfies the demands of scholarship, is more readable and better adapted to the taste of the class of cultivated persons than is any rival production in the same department of literature.

We must not omit to state that the main portions of this work have been translated, with much skill and taste, by Dr. Yeomans from the author's German. It is very seldom that we have noticed an incorrect or inelegant expression. In one place (Vol. II., p. 41) we read, in reference to the enterprise of Julian, that "in the entire failure of this effort heathenism itself gave the strongest proof that it had outlived itself for ever." To *outlive* is to live longer than another; "to outlive itself for ever" is a not very intelligible phrase. But author and translator are entitled to congratulations for the generally felicitous manner in which their respective tasks have been executed.

THE CHARITIES OF FRANCE.*

WE hope we are guilty of no impropriety in giving some account of this interesting volume, which the author must have taken great pains in compiling, but which his modesty restrains him from offering to the world. He is not a professed man of letters, and, therefore, his book is lacking in the merit of accurate generalization summing up the result of figures; but he is a man of clear intelligence; he has resided in Paris; he has directed particular attention to its charitable institutions; and he has used well all the opportunities there were for obtaining trustworthy information. The volume contains but one hundred and ninety-five pages of text, exclusive of an admirable index; but its thirty-four short chapters, composed of pure facts, with hardly a repetition, present a solid statement of the charitable administrations of France as they now are. It is already so condensed that further compression is impossible. Only the most general summary can be given. We will try to give that in such a way as to convey the general impressions left on the mind by the book, and supply in some sort the deductions which the author does not draw.

The French, as everybody knows, are a singular mixture of sentiment and sense. They are the most sentimental and, at the same time, the most

* "History of the Christian Church. By Philip Schaff, D.D." Vols. II. and III. From Constantine the Great to Gregory the Great, A.D. 311-609. New York: Charles Scribner & Co., 1867.

* "Charities of France in 1866." Boston: Gould & Lincoln. Not published.

practical of people. Their religion is Roman Catholic; their economies are scientific. Their religion teaches them to make the care of the poor a sacred duty, to be discharged from the love of God, in obedience to Christ and the church, and in the interest of salvation. Their economy teaches them to waste nothing, to do nothing aimlessly, to support nobody in idleness, to encourage industry and thrift, and to make every particle of vitality available for the purposes of society. It is interesting to see how these two somewhat inconsistent principles get on together in the administration of beneficence. From the number, size, completeness, and endowment of the establishments, it would seem as if the first principle had the matter wholly to itself. Indeed, that principle has been from time to time officially proclaimed. In 1790 the National Assembly, "penetrated with the eternal truth that the duty of providing for the subsistence of the poor in the construction of an empire is not less sacred than that of securing the prosperity of the rich," appointed a committee to take into consideration the whole subject of public charity. And this committee laid down the axiom that "society should aid without requiring labor from those who are incapacitated from age or infirmity;" that "every man has a right to his subsistence," that "the relief of indigence is a debt due by the state." This principle was afterwards repudiated, but the state is as diligent in discharging the charitable office as if the confession of the debt were still made. The whole administration of public aid is placed under the Prefect of the Seine and the Minister of the Interior. There is a general director who is appointed by the minister on the nomination of the prefect. In 1864 the director estimated the number of those who would require relief in 1865 at 259,199, of whom 100,000 were registered poor, 91,355 were in hospital, 30,000 were sick treated at their dwellings, and 23,416 were abandoned children placed in the country. There are eight general hospitals, containing altogether 3,911 beds, and eight special hospitals, containing 2,738 beds. These do not include the various benevolent foundations established by individuals, some of which are very munificent. The hospices are thirteen in number, for men and for women separately, two for the insane, two for the aged, and one, about five miles from Paris, for aged couples, widowers, and widows; one for foundlings, one for workmen over sixty years of age, etc. In all they contain 10,547 beds. Other hospitals there are, civil and military, not under the charge of the administration. Such are the new Military Hospital near Vincennes, with 600 beds; the Hospital of Val de Grace, with 1,500; the Jewish Hospital, founded by M. de Rothschild, with 100; two asiles, one with 300 beds, the other with 500. Some of these establishments are of immense proportions; the Salpêtrière had last year a population of not far from five thousand, including those employed there.

Besides the institutions mentioned, there is a multitude of others which give relief to every existing phase of want or distress. La Maternité takes care of women through the period of child-birth, from a week or so before till a week after, and also maintains a school of midwifery, to which young women from all parts of the empire resort. The Maisons de Retraite and Hospices des Ménages give comfortable shelter and pleasant lodgings, with every domestic convenience, to old people, single or married, who can pay a capital sum of from 1,000 to 3,000 francs, or a trifling rent of fifty or sixty dollars. Houses of Refuge take in able-bodied laborers who may be temporarily out of employment, and give them work at less than the ruling rate of wages, or discharged convicts who, on leaving prison, can get nothing to do, or servants looking about for situations, or girls of loose morals wishing to reform. The Sisters of Charity have charge of most of these institutions. The Crèches take care during the day of infants left by mothers on the way to their work. The Crèche is not popular. In 1849 but one in fourteen was filled; in 1853, but three in twenty-five. The mortality in them is greater than under the ordinary circumstances of children in the city. The General Administration, for several reasons obvious enough, has never adopted them. The Salles d'Asile welcome children between the ages of two and six, and have some of the features of a primary school. Foundlings, abandoned children, and destitute orphans have abundant provision made for them. The Bureaux des Nourrices procure nurses, under rule and direction of government, for mothers who are unable to nurse their own children. The Sociétés de Charité Maternelle give aid at the time of confinement to women who, having one child living, have been widowed during pregnancy; to women with at least one child and a husband who is disabled or chronically diseased; to disabled women having two living children; to women who, having two children already, give birth to twins; and to women who have three children already, the oldest under fourteen. The Société du Prince Imperial loans to workmen, or individuals of good moral character exercising any trade or profession, such tools, instruments, or materials as may be required, they pledging

repayment of the loan within a certain time. The fund is obtained by a voluntary weekly contribution of two sous by the children of France. The sum at the disposal of the society in 1864 amounted to 1,693,489 francs. The Empress is interested in the institution; but it does not pay. Last year there was a deficiency of 209,213 francs. The Ateliers de Charité, or public workshops, at the charge of the state, the departments, or the towns, supply workmen with manual labor, chiefly on the highways, in seasons of public calamity, when stagnation in business occasions public distress. The system of out-door relief is substantially the same with that adopted by our own provident associations, but is much more comprehensive, detailed, and thorough. The central office or bureau is managed by a committee consisting of the mayor and assistants, twelve administrators, and as many visitors and Sisters of Charity as may be required, a treasurer and a secretary. Many voluntary associations work in conjunction with this bureau, ministering to every species of want. The physicians, of whom there were in 1864 two hundred and one, receive small salaries; so do midwives. The largest expenditure is for medicine and baths; the next largest is for provisions and supplies. Very little money is given. The funds are in part appropriated to each arrondissement by the general administration, and are in part received from individual generosity. Applicants for aid must have resided one year in Paris; foreigners must have resided ten years. No one can be aided who neglects to send his children to school or refuses to have them vaccinated. Experiments at colonizing children in Algiers have not been so successful as our experiment at colonizing them in the West. The "Monts de Piété," or pawnshop banks, are popular institutions in France. They must be established by permission of government and of the town authorities, and must be managed exclusively for the benefit of the poorer classes. There were forty-four such banks in all France in 1853, conducted at an expense of 1,375,546 francs. The salaries consumed 940,670 francs and the balance went for general expenses, repairs, and rent. The rate of interest ranges all the way from four to twelve per cent. Some of these establishments barely meet their expenses.

From this summary view it will appear that the work of charity in France is undertaken by the state, and is carried on with rigid system and with exhaustive completeness. Such elaborate recognition of poverty is repulsive to our notions of personal independence and the importance of self-help. The very completeness of the administration makes an institution of poverty itself, and virtually declares that the state is bound to provide for the poor for its own defence, if not for their good. This is the objectionable feature in the whole system; at least it would be with us. Incidentally, however, there is much to be learned from the details of the French administration. The legal right to a support has never been established in France. Begging is sternly forbidden. The utmost precaution is taken to limit the aid extended to those for whom it is specifically designed, and whose claims are indisputable; imposition of every kind is watchfully guarded against. No end of pains are taken to spare the feelings, save the personal respect, stimulate the industry, and keep up the morale of the beneficiaries of every class. The period of dependence is in all cases reduced to the shortest possible time. The amount of dependence is diminished to the smallest point, and the sense of dependence is persistently discouraged. In the hospitals and hospices the medical and religious toleration is above all praise. All the inmates are, as far as possible, turned to use. The old women in the Salpêtrière make up the worn-out linen of the establishment into bandages for the surgeons' wards. The babies at the Crèches amuse themselves by tearing up old papers and letters, with which pillows for the sick are stuffed. Extraordinary attention is given to the treatment of young children, the foundlings, and the abandoned, the severest regulations being imposed on those who volunteer to bring them up either in town or in the country. They must give them separate beds, provide fine fenders for their protection, send them to public school and church. To expose a child in a solitary place is a crime to be punished by imprisonment from half a year to two years. If, by exposure, the child become mutilated or injured, the person exposing it shall be considered as causing the hurt; should death ensue, the crime is murder.

The economy of suffering both bodily and mental, as well as of life, is wonderful. The state does its best to be a father to the poor. We must use general expressions, for if we were to detail the exquisite carefulness practised in a single hospital—of the many in operation—we should have no space for anything else. All this costs money, but the French are ingenious in obtaining that too. They make pleasure support poverty. Under the present act, which has continued in force since 1817, the theatres pay one-tenth of the gross amount received from the sale of tickets; and managers of balls, concerts, fêtes, etc., who receive money at the door, pay one-fourth of their gross receipts. In 1860 the sum derived from these sources was as high as 1,644,263 francs. On the whole, the

French administration of charity is the most satisfactory in Christendom. If the government takes charge of it, it does so in the interest of health, order, and industry, and on scientific principles. If the provision made seems enormously large and provokingly minute, it must have the effect of discouraging fraud and pauperism. Democracy has organized no charity as yet. Would that it might never be compelled to. But, if compelled to, it may profit by the study of organized charity in the Empire, for while the Empire confesses poverty to be an institution, it deals with it as an institution that should be kept within limits and assailed in its causes. While it trims the branches it lays an axe at the roots. The principal, if not the sole, cause of distress among the lower orders of people is want of moral and intellectual culture; and this want the Empire does all in its power to supply not only outside of charity, but in and through it.

THE MAGAZINES FOR APRIL.

THAT noble Roman, Trejano Boccalini, informs us that all the virtuos of Parnassus, Aristotle, Averroes, Plato, and the rest, being assembled in full conclave, decided after argument "That Inn-keeping was not a sordid Occupation, but a most worthy Heroick virtue," and it missed but little, that authority goes on to say, "that this vocation was not added as an Eighth to the Seven Liberal Sciences." Reading in *Harper's* for April Mr. C. H. Webb's pleasant account of the famous "What Cheer House" of San Francisco, one forgets New York restaurants and can half believe the virtuos right. There is a library connected with the "What Cheer," a laundry, a place where the miner may have his clothes patched if they need it, a room in which fifty miners at a time may black their boots, a museum full of Californian and foreign curiosities, and there is a restaurant where four thousand meals, at an average charge of fifteen cents, are served daily. Bells are dispensed with by having in each sleeping-room everything that a man can be imagined to require. The price of a night's lodging is fifty cents. The house is for men only, no women being allowed on the premises. Our daily papers every little while tell us that a fortune awaits whatever man will open in New York a restaurant or a hotel at once good and cheap. It is true too; the owner of the "What Cheer" derives from it an annual income of thirty or forty thousand dollars, and the need of New York is greater than that of San Francisco; but the man, at once a very good man and able to keep a hotel like that in California, is not forthcoming.

We do not know what are the contents of the comic almanacs of to-day. Conundrums, we believe. Twenty years ago, when we had an intimate knowledge of that branch of literature, we made our first acquaintance with Davy Crockett, whom the present generation of youth does not know. We recollect him as being "death on coons," and perhaps the most successful hand-to-hand fighter with "varmint"—a term inclusive of "Injuns," "painters," and "bars"—which this country has ever produced. While memory holds her seat we shall not forget many wood-cuts relating to that mythus, and one in particular depicting the last scene in a "personal difficulty" which the hero had with what he styles "a Puke." The conflict began, like all his conflicts with the class of persons thus designated, by Crockett's grinning for an hour at his antagonist, who grinned in return. Then the Puke walks round Crockett for an hour and "hollers." Crockett, after an hour spent in the same manner, closes in, and, after tearing up a great deal of the surrounding country, finishes the fight by biting his enemy through the knee and breaking his back. Just this moment is the one which the artist seized, and the effect which his pencil produced was vivid. Turning to "Davy Crockett's Electioneering Tour," the Crockett of legend shrinks into the Crockett of fact, and our old type of Western civilization reappears in the guise of a student of the Constitution. One of his constituents declines to vote for his re-election to Congress on the ground that Col. Crockett voted to disburse twenty thousand dollars of the public money for the relief of certain sufferers by a fire in Georgetown, and convinces his representative that the people do not tax themselves for any such purposes.

Perhaps the most noticeable article is that entitled "A Christian Neighborhood." It is addressed to Christian women who regulate their conduct "by faith in the awful realities of the future life—an eternal heaven, an endless hell." The writer argues that "the family state can be instituted by any woman who has the means of earning a livelihood, as every woman should have." The distinctive feature of this state, he says, "is not that there should be parents, for Abraham, the friend of God, was eighty-five before he had any child, and a hundred before Isaac was born." Nor are husbands and wives absolutely necessary: "The true aim of the family state is to place a small number of persons under the care and authority of one or two that they may be trained to virtue and happiness chiefly by the influence of self-sacrificing love." Therefore, the writer would have women who have the necessary

means at their disposal build houses, for which he furnishes plans, where children may be trained to usefulness and goodness. Such houses might be built near each other, and mutual help be rendered by the various establishments in the Christian neighborhood thus formed. A vast number of people will give their assent to the writer's theory.

The other articles in this number of the magazine are of little interest. J. S. C. Abbott would have not quite so unsatisfactory a reputation as he has if he had never written worse than in his account of Lieut. B. H. Porter. But the adjective is still too much for him. We must not omit to mention a little sketch called "Bushy and Jack," in which the reader will find the very best reproduction of the true negro dialect that we have ever seen in print.

An article, by the Rev. Henry H. Jessup, in the April number of *Hours at Home* contains a statement very damaging to William Gifford Palgrave, the English traveller, whose book on Arabia was so successful last year. Mr. Palgrave, Mr. Jessup says, is the "Kos Michael" who in 1860 was a Jesuit missionary in Syria. In that year occurred the massacre by the Druzes of the Christians of Lebanon, and many of these people, being houseless and starving, were fed and clothed and sheltered by an association composed of American missionaries, English merchants, Greeks, Jews, and Roman Catholics, which was known as the Anglo-American and German Relief Committee, and which was supplied with funds by the charitable in England and America. "The Kos Michael," Mr. Palgrave, wrote a letter to *The Times* denouncing the committee as a mere proselytizing agency, and asserting that before any man could get money to relieve his necessities he had to turn Protestant. An investigating committee, consisting of a Papist, a Jew, and a Greek, after examining the case reported back to London that the Kos Michael's story was "a fabrication and a lie from beginning to end." After this Mr. Palgrave again appeared in Syria, where, if we believe Mr. Jessup, whose language is perhaps a little strong, "at length the Kos Michael's name became synonymous with falsehood"—a fact which readers of the travels in Central Arabia would perhaps do well to bear in mind.

Prof. W. S. Tyler continues his "Representative Cities," and treats in this number of Tyre and the Phœnicians. Prof. E. P. Evans furnishes a readable review of "The Huguenot Galley-Slave." Edward Seymour reviews Figuier's "Vegetable World." The Rev. George Bacon writes another of his Siamese papers. It is all about the father of Prince George Washington and brother of Somdet Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut. That monarch thinks, or he thought, for he is dead now, that "'Webster's Dictionary' is better than any English"—an ambiguous compliment if we consider the words, and doubtful, too, if we consider the source; he subscribed for *The Illustrated London News*; his band played "Yankee Doodle"; he owned the Abbotsford edition of Scott's works; he had a portrait of Washington hanging on the wall; he poured tea for his guest, and made the enquiry, "Cream and sugar?" While he did so, his wife, the queen, crawled on the floor; so did his son, and knocked his head on it when his father spoke to him; his majesty had no trousers on, and, of course, that being the case shoes and stockings would have been an affectation; all his head was shaved clean except a narrow place between the crown and the forehead, and on that was a ridge of clipped hair, stiff like a blacking-brush; round his waist a shawl was twisted, and on his shoulders he wore a blue sack coat. This was the gentlemanly second King of Siam. The author promises another of these amusing papers. Donald G. Mitchell discourses of "Parks, Gardens, and Groves," and makes some remarks concerning "the town poor" and the cheap beginnings of parks which we hope the editors of papers in the rural districts may copy. Dr. Horace Bushnell writes about "The Moral Uses of Bad Government," and preserves a cheerfulness his readers will envy him; there is another "Short Sermon to Sunday-school Teachers," in some remarkable verses, No. I. of "City Lyrics," Mr. Sherwood likens the newsboy to John the Baptist. On the whole, *Hours at Home* steadily grows better.

The Catholic World opens with an article which reminds one of the palmy days of *Brownson's Review*, when the editor of that magazine used to give us in each number some of the most vigorous writing that has ever been done in America. It is entitled "Church and State," and is ostensibly a review of the Marquis of Valdegamas' essay on "Catholicism, Liberalism, and Socialism," which has recently been translated from the Spanish by Mrs. Goddard, now the wife of Rear-Admiral Dahlgren. It is to be wished that the opinions expressed by the reviewer were those held by every Catholic in the country: "There is nothing, then, that the Church can receive from civil society that she has not in the United States;" and again: "The duty of the Catholic on this question is to do his best to preserve this union [the present 'union,' as distinguished from the 'unity,' of church and state] as it is, and to combat every influence or tendency hostile to it."

And it is to be wished, too, that the American Catholic would not be obliged, in following this advice, to go counter to the historical action of his Church and to what seems to be its present desire. There is also in this number of the magazine an able review of Lecky's "History of Rationalism," and the usual variety of articles, good and bad, original and selected. Each number of *The Catholic World* nowadays is apt to have a religious poem really good. "Olive Branches in Gethsemane" is an example.

In *The Atlantic*, Dr. Holmes's "Guardian Angel" is more interesting than it has been before. The heroine suffers from hysteria, and the author is on his best ground in describing her disease and the mesmeric treatment to which, to the danger of his own and her peace of mind, her young physician subjects his patient. Better done than anything else in these chapters are the scenes in which the old doctor talks with his son, and the little passage-at-arms between Byles Gridley and the hostler. Into the mouth of old Dr. Hurlbut Dr. Holmes puts the best "good thing" the novel has yet afforded: "Live folks are only dead folks warmed over." It is not as a novel that "The Guardian Angel" is going to be a success.

We cannot wholly rid ourselves of the impression that there is a good deal of stuff and nonsense in the recollections of Mr. Lincoln which Mr. Herndon and, after him, Mrs. Dall have been giving the public. How ill the feminine admiration for strength in the other sex consorts with "the critical spirit" is amusingly illustrated in Mrs. Dall's "Pioneering." After some writing of the intense order—in the vein of Miss Rossetti's "There came a strong man from the North"—about "the sturdy shoulders of Southern men looming far above those of their Eastern brothers," and about Dr. Gwin "offering an arm which seemed on a natural level with the crown of a woman's head," and about "the muscles strapped across the bones" of the descendants of such Southern poor whites as went West, and, finally, about the return of the hot Southern blood, in the persons of the Southern-blooded Western men, to the high places of power, she lets us down wofully in a footnote by a confession, based on the statement of an Illinois senator, that "if you take the census of his State to-day," there may be found in ten thousand inhabitants one person of the first generation of pioneers of pure Southern blood! In the second generation of the pioneers you find one Southern man in every two thousand citizens of the State. Illinois, we suppose, is a more favorable example for Mrs. Dall's theory than the other States of the Northern Mississippi valley.

Quite a number of the contributions in the April *Atlantic* call for no particular comments. Bayard Taylor, in "Travel in the United States," is severe, in the usual way, upon the tyranny that railway corporations exercise over travellers. He has seen a man knocked down with a slung-shot, he says, by a conductor on a Western road, because he endeavored to enter what is called the "ladies' car," the rest of the train being loaded with drunken and riotous soldiers. Mr. T. W. Higginson's "Haunted Window" is a very prettily written story of that kind in which apparently supernatural incidents are at last explained on natural principles, and it has the fault, common in the case of such stories, of ceasing to be interesting at all when the supernatural element disappears. Mr. T. Buchanan Read's poem, "Timon's Soliloquy," gives us the mildest sort of a Timon; not him of Athens by much. "Adelaide Ristori," we think, we have read once or twice before. "Katharine Morne" goes on, we see. There is nothing to be said of "A Winter Adventure on the Prairie" nor of a brief sketch of "Chester Harding." "The Restless" tells in strenuous lines, and with here and there a very vivid expression, how an oak that a witch had been hanged on and that she had cursed was builded into a ship which, having sailed, could never, because of the malison, make port. Who "H. Rich" is we do not know; but it seems that he has some sombre fancies, and is not unable to give them adequate expression. Mr. E. E. Hale succeeds in making a very readable paper on the "Sanitary Commission," and by his article and Mr. Lowell's "Familiar Epistle to a Friend" and Mr. John Fiske's careful essay on "University Reform," this number of *The Atlantic* is saved from being a poor one.

Mr. Fiske's article does not directly bear on the controversy now going on between the friends and enemies of classical education. Keeping in his eye Harvard College as at present constituted, his object is "to educe from a few general principles the rudiments of a systematic scheme of reform," so that the university, without becoming a shop for making either sciolists or profound students in this or that science, or for making specialists of any kind, may yet avail herself of every branch of human knowledge in order to the making of cultivated men. We have seen nothing on this subject since it was first agitated among the alumni of our New England colleges so good as this very practical essay, and we are disposed to believe, and certainly we hope, that it will not be long before many if not all of

the excellent suggestions offered by Mr. Fiske will be the law and practice of his own and all other American colleges.

Mr. Lowell's "Familiar Epistle" might indeed have been a letter, and to a friend, for its ease, careless ease it seems to be at times, and its frankness. The whole is better than any of its parts—which perhaps is not true of all of Mr. Lowell's or all of hardly any other poet's poems—but we may be allowed to please ourselves by separating from the context this characteristic passage:

"I have not split one drop of joy
Poured in the senses of the boy,
Nor Nature fails my walks to bless
With all her golden inwardness;
And as blind nestlings, unafraid,
Stretch up wide-mouthed to every shade
By which their downy dream is stirred,
Taking it for the mother-bird,
So, when God's shadow, which is light,
Unheralded, by day or night,
My waking instinct fails across,
Silent as silobams over moss,
In my heart's most half-conscious things
Stir with a helpless sense of wings,
Lift themselves up, and tremble long
With premonitions sweet of song."

Mr. Howells is only to be found in the "Literary Notices." We will not suppose that it is he who gives the American critic those "eminently suggestive" lessons in criticism in the "Advertising Miscellany."

Of the juvenile magazines we see many, from the instructive *Paper for Young People*, which is not too young for people of sixteen years, down to *Miss Seavern's "Nursery"* for almost the smallest of the small. *Our Young Folks* and *The Riverside Magazine* continue to hold the first positions, and the latter is improving steadily, as a new magazine should. We were able to read with pleasure the whole of the number for April, and saying this seems to us to be saying a good deal for a juvenile magazine, the literature of these periodicals being too often sufficient to strike a man into despair. Let us remark of *The Riverside Magazine* that when we see Mr. H. L. Stephens's foxes, so human in their expression and action, we are the less inclined to pardon his wretched children, not human, in the frontispiece; and the queen is not a nice creature.

Poetical Works of Sir Walter Scott, Baronet. With a Biographical and Critical Memoir by Francis Turner Palgrave. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1866.)—This is the cheap edition, known as "The Globe Edition," recently put forth in England. Prettily bound, very well printed on good paper, furnished with a sufficient number of good historical notes, and with an essay by Mr. Palgrave, an accomplished critic, we do not know a single cheap edition, nor many dear editions, that can for a moment stand comparison with this. Mr. Lockhart, Mr. Palgrave says, describes Scott as the finished man of the world; Carlyle seems to think of him as in the main a manufacturer of hasty books for the purpose of making money and a landed estate to rival the neighboring country gentlemen. Both these views Mr. Palgrave believes incorrect; they fail, in his opinion, to explain how such imaginative prose and verse as Scott's had room to come into being. In Mr. Palgrave's view the true solution to the difficult problem of Scott's character is not that the nature of the poet was absent, but that it was more closely and curiously combined with the man of common life than in others. This idea the essayist supports by considerations drawn not only from Scott's history as a poet, but from his novels as well, and from his life in the world of affairs. This may be said to be Mr. Palgrave's summing up of Scott's character: "As a child of the critical eighteenth century and the son of a shrewd Scotch solicitor Scott was, on one side, a born sceptic in romance, the Middle Ages, and Jacobitism; as a cadet of the Scots of Harden and a man of the strongest imaginative temperament, he was likewise a born believer. Now not only his writings, which in the strictest sense reproduce himself, but his life and character, present a continual half-conscious attempt at a real and practical compromise between these opposing elements. In the details, what struck his contemporaries was plain but genial common sense; in the whole, what strikes the later student is the predominance of the poetical impulse." The essay gives, we think, formal expression for the first time to what has been for some time the general opinion about Scott, and for this, to say nothing of some excellent incidental criticisms, it is very well worth having.

Manual of Legal Study. By Scott R. Sherwood. (New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1867.)—This is a convenient little manual for the use of law students, in which they will find a course of legal study marked out for them which will materially aid them in determining what books they shall read—a question very perplexing to beginners, and one upon which they usually get very little light. Our own judgment does not entirely coincide with that of Mr. Sherwood in respect to the choice of books, as we think either Kent's "Commentaries" or Bouvier's "Institutes" better worthy of repeated study than Blackstone; and it seems to us that the number of books included in the list is somewhat too large. But a student beginning on the plan here laid down will soon be able to judge of this for himself, while he may, at all events, be assured that his time will be well spent if he concludes to adhere to the programme of this manual. It is the only thing of its kind which is at all adapted to the present day, and will be of service to students.

Catalogue of Law Books. (New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1867.)—This is a full catalogue of the law books published in this country, and of such English law books as are commonly purchasable here. It will be found of considerable value to lawyers.

Articles on any of the subjects usually discussed in this journal will be received from any quarter. If used, they will be liberally paid for; if rejected, they will be returned to the writers on the receipt of the requisite amount of postage stamps.

All Communications which pertain to the literary management of THE NATION should be addressed to the Editor.

THE POLITICAL FUTURE.

THE nature of the arrangement which Congress has made as to its adjournment renders it certain that, barring some gross act of folly on the part of Mr. Johnson or of the Southern leaders, there will be no session until December. As well as anybody can judge from his present attitude and language, he is not likely to do anything to impede the free working of the Reconstruction bill. The generals in command of the military districts are men in whom the country has every confidence, and what they have done so far warrants the conclusion that they will do hereafter all that the occasion calls for or the people expect, without either let or hindrance from the White House. There could, in fact, hardly be a better augury as to the future than the steps General Sheridan has just taken at New Orleans. We may therefore fairly anticipate that the constitutional conventions in the various States will be duly held, and that not only the Unionists, properly so called, but everybody not formally disfranchised by the act, will take part in the election of the delegates. It is impossible to read the speeches of the leading Southern men and the articles in the recent Southern papers without feeling satisfied that active submission has at last been determined on, that the South is going to reorganize under the act, and that the plan of flattering and managing the negroes has been fixed on as the best and only mode of taking out of the new law whatever sting or danger there may be in it. We shall probably see during the coming summer most of the leading Southern politicians, and a large number also of influential men who have never taken much part in politics, carrying on a brisk canvass amongst the freedmen, and competing, and we believe not unsuccessfully, with the Southern Radicals, properly so called, for the negro vote.

That the conventions will comply with the requisitions of Congress we have no sort of doubt. It would, of course, be a great mockery, as everybody at the South now knows, to hold them for any other purpose than compliance. That the establishment of free schools is not amongst those requisitions, as proposed the other day by Mr. Sumner, we consider a great misfortune; and we cannot help thinking that the whole North will see it in the same light before many years. Of what the Southern planters can do in the political management of ignorant voters we know something already, but we greatly fear we have something still to learn. If, therefore, Mr. Johnson confines himself during the summer to the routine duties of his office, and indulges in no worse outbursts of feeling than "conversations," there will be nothing for Congress to do until the regular time of meeting. The game of removals from office which the President played last summer is, of course, barred by the Tenure of Office bill, and our foreign ministers may hereafter meet the gaze of the McCrackens without wincing. Thus Mr. Johnson is really exposed to hardly any temptation.

What, under these circumstances, is likely to become of the impeachment? In the first place, it is quite evident that its great advocates have now very little influence in the House. General Butler went to Congress charged with the special duty of carrying it through, and may be said to have made absolutely no impression on anybody, and has been condemned to the somewhat inglorious rôle of sticking pins into his personal enemies for the amusement of his fellow-members. Mr. Stevens, too, has evidently lost his power, or else the House has grown thick-skinned, for his lash, though ever so mercilessly applied, does not produce the slightest movement. What is more significant than all is that the Judiciary Committee makes no secret of the fact that it is proceeding in strict accordance with legal forms, taking evidence only under legal rules, and is admitting rebutting testimony at every step. We have all along maintained that if this were done the impeachment had little chance. The only mode of impeachment which promised success was something in the nature of a bill of pains and penalties, or what might be called "impeachment by acclamation."

We are still of opinion that no evidence has been brought before the committee which would bear examination in a court of law, because it could only reach the committee through the promoters of the movement, and thus far these gentlemen have not tantalized the public by their secrecy. They have been, of course, very anxious to secure support from the people, and consequently are not likely to have kept back anything of importance which came to their knowledge, and yet they have told us absolutely nothing that we have not all known for the last year, unless it be Mr. Boutwell's charge about the pardon of the West Virginia deserters. We have at the same time the assurance of the committee that they will prosecute their enquiry diligently during the summer, and if they find any high crime or misdemeanor will do their duty about it fearlessly. In any case, however, the probability is that we shall not get their report till December.

In calculating the effect of it, even if unfavorable to the President, it is desirable to remember that the convention for the nomination of the next President will be held in the summer of 1868, and that during the previous half-year the attention of the political world will be entirely absorbed in the manufacture of candidates, possible and impossible, likely and unlikely, and will continue to be so till the nomination is made. After the nomination of course comes the campaign, and we doubt if a more exciting one has ever occurred. It is safe therefore to predict that Mr. Johnson, insignificant already, will, after the first of January next, become more and more so, and will cease to be spoken of at all as the winter wears on, and that some of those who are now most eager to try him will then be least disposed to trouble themselves about him. Moreover, suppose an impeachment process were commenced in December, if conducted with legal form, as it ought to be and certainly would be, it would last till the following summer at least, and conviction might possibly be secured about the time of the next election; but we doubt if either the cause of the country or the interests of virtue would be served by it.

THE NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

THE assembly convened to consider a draft of the constitution which is to unite twenty-two states of North Germany in a federal union has been sitting for some weeks past in Berlin, and the cable has just briefly informed us that the constitution submitted to it had been adopted, with some slight modifications. What these modifications are we can, pending the arrival of fuller intelligence, only guess; but we can learn enough from a careful reading of the reports of the debates, combined with what we know already of the feelings and tendencies of the great party leaders, to guess with a tolerably close approach to accuracy. The proposed Confederation—or, to speak more accurately now, the actual Confederation—will, in many important particulars, resemble the American Union. The legislature consists of a council, composed of representatives of the different states, and corresponding in character to our Senate, and of a lower house, or diet, composed of representatives of the people. The presidency of the Confederation, however, is lodged in perpetuity in the King of Prussia. He is to declare war, make peace, enter into treaties and receive ambassadors, and to command the army and navy and to appoint the president of the council; but the lower house will choose its own speaker. The confederate constitution and the acts of the confederate parliament are declared to be the supreme law of the land, to which all state legislation is to be subordinate; and as we hear nothing of any tribunal competent to pass upon the constitutionality of federal laws, the federal authority may really be said to be, for all practical purposes, unlimited. The constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the council, or upper house; but this provision really amounts to nothing, as Prussia is to possess an absolute veto on all changes. Perhaps the most striking provision of the new constitution, and that which constitutes the most effective preparation for a still closer political union, is that which confers community of citizenship on the inhabitants of all the confederated states. The subjects of each state are to stand in all other respects on absolutely the same footing in every respect as natives.

The federal courts are to have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters relating to commerce and navigation, banking and currency, railroad

and telegraph lines, and in all civil proceedings little except the administration of criminal justice and the management of the police, education and the church, being left to the local authorities. To crown all, the power of military execution against contumacious states is conferred on the general government in express terms. Had our Constitution contained a similar one we should have certainly escaped a most wearisome controversy, and probably a bloody war.

The constitution in the form in which it has reached us, and in which it has probably been passed, appears to be the work of several persons who have not succeeded in blending their work. Some portions of it are marked by great clearness and conciseness, and others by a tedious and unnecessary minuteness. Some of the articles are contradictory, and in others points of grave importance are left in great doubt. In fact, it is only with the greatest difficulty that one can extract from it a clear idea of the exact nature and limits of the functions assigned to the presidency, the council, and the diet respectively.

The assembly recently organized is composed of about 296 members, of whom 193 represent the old provinces of Prussia, 43 those recently annexed, and the remaining 21 the other states of the Confederation. Of those from Prussia proper a large majority—thanks, strange as it may appear, to universal suffrage—are Conservatives; from new Prussia about one-half are Conservatives, and very few who are not either Separatists or Ultramontanists. Schleswig-Holstein sends mostly Separatists, Hanover one-third Separatists, and Electoral Hesse and Nassau Liberals only. Most of the other states and one-third of Saxony return only Liberals and Union men. As a rule, the Conservatives were quite ready to accept the draft of the constitution as first presented to them, while the Liberals sought to make some alterations; but of course the position of Prussia in the matter makes deliberation over it little more than a form. The objections of the Liberals were three in number: (1) the exclusion of state officials of all ranks from seats in the Diet, (2) the absence of a responsible ministry, and (3) the absolute and final settlement at the outset of the per-centage of population liable to military service, and of the sum to be appropriated for the maintenance of the army, thus depriving the Diet of the principal, in fact only, check either on usurpation or abuse of power. The first of these objections has been pushed very strongly, and has probably led to one of the modifications which the telegraph announces; the second the King of Prussia has expressed his willingness to meet by concession, and it is proposed to make the Prussian ministry the ministry of the Confederation; the third is the most serious. If the Diet is allowed to vote the supplies for the army each year, it would of course render the control of the army, which is now lodged in the hands of Prussia, only nominal. But this Prussia is naturally unwilling to submit to, as she is determined that whatever the nature of the Confederation may be, she shall really rule in it, at least so far as to prevent its breaking up without her consent. She has been in the meantime strongly urging on the parliament the acceptance of the constitution as it stands, leaving the work of amendment to be done hereafter; but as amendments can only be made by the vote of two-thirds of the council, and as she commands at least seventeen of the forty-three, the acceptance of the constitution pure and simple, if it has taken place, of course means simply submission to her will.

The position of the South German states just now is rather singular. They do not seem by any means disposed to follow the course which everybody expected them to follow when the treaty was made at the close of the war, which stipulated that the North German Confederation should not extend further south than the line of the Main. Austria then expected an alliance of all the South German states, and the other states hoped to form a south-western league which would enable them to hold the balance in all disputes between Prussia and the North German Confederation on one side, and France and Austria on the other. Baden, Würtemberg, Bavaria, and ducal Hesse now begin to perceive very clearly, however, that a combination in antagonism to North Germany would not only give them no influence in German councils, but would place them in the position of a weak adversary, and deprive them of all claims to consideration on the score of their German nationality, and Austria is clearly too weak to be relied on in a pinch. Moreover, the Zollverein, or customs league, will now expire in a few months, and

Bismark will doubtless refuse to renew it, in the hope of forcing these states to join the Northern Confederation, so that their manufacturing and commercial interests will suffer severely if they persist in trying to set up a confederation of their own. They are accordingly clamorous already for closer union, and the terms of such an union seem to have been already settled, and only waited the formation of a government at the north competent to treat to be embodied in a formal league or alliance. This government is now, it appears, in existence, and we shall see before long the consummation of Bismark's hopes and the verification of his saying—"Let Germany be put in the saddle, and there need be no fear of her inability to ride."

WHAT IS THE USE OF GOING TO COLLEGE?

THE question of the comparative value of classical and scientific education, or rather of the value of classical education, has been undergoing very vigorous discussion in this country as well as elsewhere for the last year or two. The ferocious attack on classical education which appeared in these columns from the pen of "A Gothic Man" has called forth a number of letters which want of space prevents us from using, but none of which sheds any new light on the subject. Our periodicals East and West teem with articles on it from presidents and professors of colleges, and from what are called "practical men." The last number of *The Atlantic Monthly* contains a very sensible and able attempt to state what ought to be studied in universities, and to assign to each study its share in the work of a sound general education; and finally Mr. John Stuart Mill, in his recent address at St. Andrews, may be said to have closed the discussion. It is not at all likely that any better or more authoritative exposition than his of the nature of an university education is likely to be made by anybody.

The general result seems to be that the enemies of the classics have had the worst of it. The weight of authority, whether it be the authority of cultivated radicals or cultivated conservatives, is all against the exclusion of the ancient classics from any course of study the object of which is to furnish a man with a well disciplined, flexible, highly tempered, and robust intellect, and this is or ought to be, it is universally admitted, the chief object of all university training. This point we for our part consider settled, and even if we did not consider it settled, we doubt if anything that could be said about it in the space we have at our disposal would be of much value. It seems to be taken for granted by the best class of university reformers—we mean those who really seek to make universities instruments of general culture—that if they do succeed in making them so, they will satisfy the demand of the majority of those who are dissatisfied with the existing system. But we think this is a mistake. The literary taste and literary wants of the country are undoubtedly improving, and have improved greatly—how greatly any one can see who takes the trouble to compare the American books and periodicals of to-day with the American books and periodicals of forty years ago, or the Congressional speeches over which most people now laugh with the Congressional speeches reported in "Niles's Register," over which nobody laughed. In fact, the intellectual needs of the population change every year. Success in any field of literature or art or science is every year more difficult, and every author and orator and artist feels every year the edge of a sharper and more exacting criticism. But then there is no question that the popular craving for the highest culture, or the popular respect for it and appreciation of its value, does not increase in the ratio of the national growth in other directions. The class of men of the highest culture bears a smaller proportion to-day to the total population, we venture to say—although this is an assertion which there is no means of proving—than it has borne at any other period. In three things—population, material wealth, and mechanical skill—our progress for twenty or thirty years has been very rapid, so rapid that nothing else has been able to keep pace with it.

The result is that in the eyes of a large proportion of the people material progress has come to mean all progress, and anything that does not help it so rapidly and visibly that any business man can see and appreciate the help is looked upon as comparatively valueless. The signs of this are very numerous. When a measure is proposed in Congress, for instance, which is likely to affect the supply or distribution of knowledge—one of the most stupendous subjects which can occupy the attention of the legislature of a civilized country—whom does Congress call before it and consult? The philosophers, teachers, students, writers, philanthropists, or preachers of the country? Not at all. They are never so much as mentioned, and probably there are not ten men in both Houses who would go to hear their opinions or wishes about it. It is those who trade in books—the paper-

makers, booksellers, printers, and bookbinders—who are sent for, whose desires are recorded, and whom ambitious members labor to please; and when the "book trade" is satisfied, who gives himself any concern about what the readers and writers of books feel or think? When rich men leave money to an institution of learning, or when legislatures endow them—

is hardly ever nowadays for the promotion of general culture—for the general purposes of a university—but almost always for the encouragement of some particular branch of knowledge which is likely to be of immediate use in making the country richer, not wiser simply. We find no fault with this. The encouragement of any branch of knowledge is a noble use of wealth; we simply record it as one of the signs of the times. Even pictures have not yet in the eyes of the great body even of picture-buyers risen above the rank of furniture, and the artists themselves have of late helped to diffuse and confirm this unfortunate popular impression of the nature of their calling by placing their productions in the category of "native manufactures," and joining the upholsterers and cabinet-makers and paper-makers in a cry for protection from foreign competition, as if native and foreign artists were rival mechanics, instead of being what they are—joint contributors to the world's stock of graceful and beautiful and ennobling things.

So, also, when preparations are made nowadays for the establishment of a new university, or when a cry is raised by the general public for what is called "university reform," we find almost invariably that what is sought in a university is a collection of schools for the teaching of certain money-making arts, and what is meant by a "university education" is such an education as will qualify a man to earn somehow fifteen hundred dollars and upwards yearly. In fact, there seems to be a general tendency to look on the money spent in a young man's training as *simply* an investment, which must be managed on strictly business principles and made to yield ordinary interest at least, and, if possible, a good profit at the earliest possible moment. It is not with regard to the college course only that this tendency shows itself. The dislike of law students to studying law yearly increases. Most students chafe terribly under the laborious reading on which forensic fame was in old times built, and will none of it, and qualifications for admission to the bar having been in most States made nearly nominal, they rush into "business" as soon as they have got hold of the rules of practice. Doctors are forced into somewhat greater patience by the fear of prosecution for manslaughter. In the lower arts we witness similar phenomena. All master mechanics will tell you that impatience of training grows apace, that boys will not now submit to apprenticeship, and that the inefficiency of workmen consequently becomes yearly greater and more embarrassing. The shipbuilders of New York mentioned this a few months ago, in a printed statement, as one of the causes of the decline of their trade in this country.

We do not call attention to these facts for the mere purpose of making up what is called a "startling picture." We believe them to be the natural and inevitable consequences of the sudden opening by steam and electricity of the boundless resources of a vast continent to a population twenty times too small to work them properly. There is so much to be done, therefore, and so few to do it, and wealth is to be acquired so much more rapidly and by so much less exertion than ever before in any other age or country, that finish or accuracy or high proficiency are not asked for. Mr. Lincoln said of his law papers, that they would amuse lawyers in Boston, but out West they did well enough; so it is with many other things. Men will not, on the whole, do anything better than society requires them to do it, or, to put it in a coarser form, than they are paid for doing it; and society in most parts of the United States has just now so much to do and is in such a hurry to do it, that young men find they can get employment as lawyers, doctors, and mechanics with a very small amount of training, and therefore are unwilling to submit to more training than they will require to enable them to get as large wages as are to be had. Moreover, the ease with which wealth is acquired has raised the standard of living so very rapidly, and made the position of those who do not possess it in many ways so much more uncomfortable than it has ever been before, that few young men are willing to delay one minute in the race for it to pick up the finish or culture, particularly as they see that the heroes of the day are generally the "self-made men"—that is, the men who, starting without education and going on without ever acquiring any, grow very rich and influential.

We fear, therefore, that the question which is occupying the minds of the majority of American parents just now is not what kind of course their sons ought to pursue at college, but whether there is any "use" in sending them to college at all, and we wish sincerely that some of the ability which has been expended in settling what the college course ought to be may be diverted to convincing the public of the advantage of pursuing it. When

one reads much of what is written on the subject of "university reform" at the West, and particularly the accounts one receives from that region of the collegiate novelties they are about to produce out there, one has little difficulty in concluding that Mr. Mid's idea of an university—"not a place of professional education," "not a place for the production of skillful lawyers and physicians and engineers, but capable and cultivated human beings," not places "from which men should carry away professional knowledge, but that which should direct the use of their professional knowledge, and bring the light of general culture to illuminate the technicalities of special pursuits"—is not likely to meet with general favor.

But this renders it all the more necessary for those who have universities in charge, or who are interested in their working, to hold fast to this ideal, and whatever changes they make to keep this and this only in view. In our time the useful is sure to take care of itself. Schools intended to fit men to make money easily will always find plenty of founders, patrons, and pupils. The *malaise* from which the country suffers, and suffers without knowing what is the matter with it, is the want of a greater diffusion of that highest culture which makes "capable and cultivated human beings," the object of which is not to make better miners or surgeons or pleaders, but to widen the range of our intellectual vision, elevate and purify our tastes.

The great difficulty, in short, with which the universities have to contend in trying to become what they ought to be, is not the prejudices of professors or "classicists," as some reformers would have us believe, but the general rage for money, or, as it is sometimes called by an imposing euphemism, "the spirit of the age." As long as professional as well as other men can pick up all the knowledge that society requires of them and fill all posts of honor and profit without high cultivation, the universities will have a hard time in trying to spread it. Men will not at present fling their way into the heart of the sciences for the mere honor of being considered by the public "scholars and gentlemen"—that is, well-informed incapables, well enough in their way at literary tea-parties, but useless for war, or politics, or commerce, bearing about the same relation to the "practical" man that an Italian greyhound does to a watch-dog. We know of but one way for the universities to combat this evil at present. It must be made pecuniarily profitable for young men to cultivate themselves to the highest point. If this stimulus were once applied, we have no doubt the class of highly cultivated men would soon become large enough to diffuse through the whole community a higher standard of excellence in all departments of knowledge than now exists, and thus to render the public more exacting; and the more exacting the public becomes, the higher will be the average of attainments amongst men laying any claims to education. Large fortunes have now become very numerous all over the country, and our rich men are plainly acquiring a noble habit of endowing or making donations to colleges. Hitherto these gifts have usually been made for the foundation of specific courses of instruction, which is so far very good, but does not, after all, touch the root of the prevailing evil. We might have in every college in the country splendid "schools," rich museums, and well-stocked libraries and swarms of professors, and still be no better off than we are now. No means and appliances of learning can be of any use unless there be amongst the students thirst that will not be slaked, ambition that cannot be satisfied, energy that never tires. All your wells are worthless if your horses will not drink. If, therefore, donors to universities would for the next few years devote themselves to founding pecuniary prizes of sufficient magnitude to make them really tempting to young men beginning life, to be awarded only to the highest merit in a real university course, while leaving the winners free to engage in the business of life whenever they pleased, it would, we are satisfied, do more than anything else that can be devised for the creation of a higher standard of excellence, for the diffusion of a more exacting spirit amongst the public and of a stronger feeling of sympathy and fraternity amongst men of education, and for the banishment or suppression of the large bands of dealers in counterfeit wares who may now be found in every highway and byway of science and literature, and who raise such a prodigious outcry and call so many of their victims to their rescue when any attempt is made to bring them to justice that they may be said to enjoy complete impunity.

PARIS GOSSIP.

PARIS, March 8, 1867.

If in the streets of Paris the carnival is all but extinct, its presence still lingers in the *salons* of the capital, where innumerable masked and fancy balls have been given during Shrovetide, while in half the houses dances and suppers on a more modest scale have been going on from garret to cellar. One of the most splendid of these Shrovetide balls was given on

Sunday night, in one of the grandest hotels of the Faubourg St. Honoré, all the guests being attired in costumes imitated from the reign of the Valois kings: The supper, which was superb, was served in Faenza ware of the reign of Henri II.; the wine was in Venetian glass of the same epoch; the salt cellars were the work of Benvenuto Cellini; and the table was lighted entirely with candelabra and candlesticks of Murano, the exquisite whiteness of the glasswares being relieved by the splendid hues of their flowers.

The fancy ball at the hotel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been the most splendid of the official *fêtes* of the defunct carnival; the fair daughters of America, as usual, carrying off the palm of beauty, and rivaling the most splendid in the richness and elegance of their costumes. Mrs. Lambreth as a marquise of the time of Louis XV.; Mrs. Barclay as Folly, hung from head to foot with little mirrors in gilded frames; Mrs. Thompson as an Irish gipsy, and her sister, Miss Farnell, as a star, in blue and gold; Mrs. Spencer in a wonderful dress of gold gauze, and her lovely daughter in a fanciful Italian costume; and Miss Beckwith as a Greek slave in chains, were among the most admired of the brilliant assemblage. There were costumes representing "golden rain," the Huntress Diana, "shower of ice," Arabs, Algerian Jewesses; a group representing "Night," exquisitely got up, with dusky wings, whose under side was constellated with diamonds; another group, representing a "shower of ice," was equally effective. The costumes of the gentlemen were equally rich, and all were well adapted for dancing. The ornamentation and lighting of the rooms were unusually splendid even for Paris; and the Emperor and Empress were present, in masks and dominoes, enjoying the scene. Prince Napoleon, who wore no mask, was the object of no end of witty attacks on the part of the masked merry-makers about him; but bore with great good humor the "chaffing" to which he was subjected, generally (for he is one of the wittiest of the witty) paying back the "chaffers" in their own coin. The last of the state balls at the Tuileries was the most brilliant of the four; the Empress, in a dress of white satin trimmed with roses, and a diamond sparkling in each leaf of this trimming, "taking the shine" out of all the other ladies by the splendor of her jewels. Her Majesty's private Monday evening parties, admittance to which is so eagerly sought for and so hard to obtain, are to be resumed next week. Several ladies of the American colony have succeeded, to the amazement and envy of less favored aspirants of the other colonies, in making good their footing at these charming *soirées*. It is said that one of these, immensely rich and particularly enterprising, having got herself presented at court, took an opportunity of setting forth to the Duc de Bassano, the grand chamberlain, her great desire to be invited to the Empress's "Mondays," and earnestly entreated the duke to intercede with the Empress in her favor.

"But, my dear lady," objected the duke, "on what possible ground, on what imaginable pretext, could I ask her Majesty to place your name on her list?"

"Oh, Monsieur le Duc," returned the lady, "if your excellency would but say to the Empress that I have the most magnificent diamonds, and that her Majesty cannot see them to any advantage in the great cram and crush of the state balls, whereas her Majesty would certainly see them with pleasure at the Monday evening parties, where they would produce a most splendid effect!"

So earnestly did the lady plead her own cause and that of her diamonds that the Duc de Bassano, moved by her entreaties and the oddity of the idea, at last consented to lay her request before the Empress; and the latter, greatly amused by the communication, actually sent the invitation so greatly desired. The lady, who delights in rigging herself out in diamonds from top to toe, and who covers her yellow hair with the same until her head looks like a thatched hay-rick on a frosty morning, came out for the occasion in all her splendor. And whether it be that the Empress really considers the diamonds in question as forming a desirable addition to the attractions of her drawing-room, or whatever else may be the motive of the preference, certain it is that the lady alluded to has so far made good the position so curiously gained that she has been, with her husband, ever since regularly invited to the Empress's Mondays, and is received by her Majesty with the utmost kindness and attention.

The American colony gave, on Washington's birthday, a magnificent *fête* at the Grand Hotel. The rooms were filled with flowers and flags and splendidly lighted. A fine portrait of the founder of the great republic occupied the place of honor; and the beaux and belles who had met to celebrate the day danced with great animation, and did full justice to an excellent supper.

An avalanche of parties, balls, concerts public and private, dinners, theatres, and operas is rolling over Paris; and people are beginning to ask,

with some anxiety, If the tide of dissipation is already so overwhelming, what will it be during the six months of the Exhibition?

Rossini has just given a most charming and brilliant musical *soirée* in celebration of his seventy-fifth birthday. All the artistic and literary notabilities of the day were there, with the cream of the political, aristocratic, and financial worlds. The old maestro, who is far prouder of his skill as a pianist than of his genius as a composer, played, with M. de Saint-Saëns, a duet composed by the latter; Patti, Delle-Sedie, and all the leading "stars" taking part in the programme of the evening. Madame Albini, withdrawn from the stage and living in her pretty hotel in the Cours-la-Reine, gave a similar party a few nights ago, and not being able to find among her guests a bass voice for a chorus which was to be sung during the evening, she took the part herself, and that with a roundness and richness of voice that perfectly astounded her hearers.

The Emperor has determined to help Lamartine out of his difficulties by getting the Legislative Assembly to vote him a "national recompense" of 400,000 francs, which sum, it is hoped, will enable the ex-president of the late republic to pay off his debts and keep his head above water for the rest of his lifetime.

Fine Arts.

THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN NEW YORK.

THE Government Commission which has charge of the matter of a proposed new building for post-office and United States courts issued an advertisement about a month ago stating some of the requirements of the building and the conditions under which architects may offer designs. At the same time a circular was sent to the architects of this city and vicinity containing the substance of the advertisement and a map of the site. The map was very insufficient and inaccurate, and a second and larger one has very recently been sent to the same architects, giving the needed facts and figures.

The lot ceded by the city to the General Government is a piece taken off the southern end of the City Hall Park. It is in shape something like a triangle with one rounded corner; or, if the little segmental piece at the lower end were dropped, the shape would be nearly a symmetrical trapezoid having the two parallel sides 320 and 120 feet respectively, and the two other sides each 300 feet. If the building occupies the whole of this piece of 70,000 square feet, and is only three stories high, it will be vast and costly enough for the "metropolis." It is to be fire-proof, faced with white marble, and, we may add, nobody expects it to cost much less than two million dollars.

As the criticism of existing buildings is an important part of our department of "Fine Arts," so it is of interest to enquire what chance there is that this great edifice will be of good architecture. The old routine is not to be followed. Congress has appointed a commission of New York business men, and this commission has advertised, inviting architects to compete. And inasmuch as nearly all the architects of standing in the land have rejected publicly the invitation of the War Department, and as a smaller number of the same have pooh-poohed the chance of sending designs to Albany for a new capitol, the present commission has offered terms and conditions which are at least more carefully considered than usual, and are, in many respects, fair and business-like. But it seems to be certain that many, to say the least, of our best architects will avoid altogether the proposed competition. All or nearly all of those whose names are favorably known by important work well done, and the great majority of the younger men who represent good possibilities and control the future, will, it is clear, refuse to offer designs for the building which they each and all would so much like to build. This is a most unfortunate state of things, and, as regards the conditions and prospects of architecture, to be regretted as much as any of the numerous errors in the building enterprises of the faultful past.

We think that the architects are not altogether right in their decision, so far as their decision is common and for reasons given, and we shall say a word concerning what seems to us their mistake. But there can be no doubt that they are right in the main in their common objections to the terms of the commissioners' invitation and in their dislike and dread of such competitions.

Without attempting further to speak for either the commission or the architects, let us consider some points that look unpromising. In the first place, the combination in one building of post-office and law courts is very unfortunate. To bring them together in one building at all will be to any architect who may undertake the task a very great difficulty and embarrass-

ment. The ground floor must of necessity be a great single room surrounded by a broad corridor for the public; those are the conditions precedent for the main body of a post-office for New York, and to build above that a couple of stories of large and small and variously combined rooms, the whole to be fire-proof, heavy with brick and iron, is a trying and anxious labor.

Then, in the second place, the directions of the advertisement are very insufficient and vague, and sometimes, we cannot but think, are mistaken. Even if they are all right to the letter, they are so insufficient that every one must go make his own enquiries: Which offices are the most frequented, which the least? which rooms are to be large, and which small? Are the present rooms of the marshal, district attorney, circuit court clerk, sufficient in size and convenient in arrangement, and, if not, what changes are imperative, and what changes are desirable if easy to effect? As for the post-office, all is left in uncertainty. This most difficult part of the problem is left for each architect to work out without assistance. The whole plan will prove a hard one to perfect.

And then, thirdly, there is no time allowed to do the work in. Six weeks would hardly suffice if no one had anything else to do. Six weeks would hardly suffice if all requirements were clearly stated, and nothing were asked of the architects but an exterior. But to compose this building covering seventy thousand square feet—to make each department perfect in itself and to combine all harmoniously—to design a noble and complete exterior, and to represent the whole by sufficient drawings, is not six weeks' but three months' work even for tolerably unoccupied men.*

Here comes in another, the fourth difficulty. There are parts of the invitation which read as if a handsome building were not desired. "Unnecessary and inappropriate ornamentation to be avoided." Can any one conceive of ornamentation which the designer would confess inappropriate? Would it be ornament at all if inappropriate, or even if unnecessary? And can anything which is truly ornament be unnecessary—except, indeed, in the sense that the building would stand without it? "The material of the exterior to be of white marble, except as to first floor, which is to be estimated both for marble and iron." Taking together and in connection these two quotations, it seems that a study of Broadway store fronts would nearly suit the case. It is certainly to be hoped that neither iron nor cast-iron will appear anywhere upon the front except in sash-bars and railings, and that a proper proportion of the whole cost may go for necessary and appropriate ornamentation.

A fifth objection is purely a matter of business. The commission announces "that all plans for which premiums shall be awarded shall be retained as the property of the United States." There are fourteen premiums offered; five of these of five hundred dollars each, and five of only three hundred dollars each. And the wording of the invitation forbids an architect to refuse the three hundred dollars if awarded him and demand the return of his drawings. This stipulation is quite valueless, for any architect employed upon such a work must feel an insurmountable repugnance to using designs of others for which no adequate remuneration has been made, and they could only embarrass him. A public exhibition of the designs would be very desirable, and this would develop and bring to light every forgotten point, and explain every half-understood need. But the designs could only be of value to the Government as a part of the history of the times. The difficulties contained in this stipulation can best be clearly shown by the statement that all architects consider their drawings as their own, as a lawyer's papers are his, a clergyman's manuscript sermons his. An architect's business is to build houses; a lawyer's to win cases; a clergyman's, in part, to preach sermons. The tools by which they work, materials of their trade, remain theirs after house, verdict, and sermon are finished and delivered.

Another business point makes a sixth objection. The commission "reserves the right of rejecting all plans submitted to it." It is usual for quartermasters and commissaries advertising for Government stores to specify this reserved right, necessary to enable them to reject bids from irresponsible parties. It has crept into this specification, too, where it will do more harm than good. By all means let this reservation exist as regards the actual building, but let the prizes be duly awarded and paid. The bidders for beef and flour contracts will admit that the examiners can judge of their samples and of the accountability of their endorsers, but the architects will not admit that the commission can judge of their designs. This is precisely the central difficulty, that experts in any difficult business dis-

* The time has been extended to the first of June, notice to that effect having been given about two weeks before the day first named for sending in designs. So far as this third difficulty has operated to keep architects from competing, it is too late to repair the mischief.

trust the judgment of outsiders; that the architects are sure that if they work their hardest and succeed the best, the opinions formed of their work by the judges will be founded upon no adequate knowledge of the requirements of the building or the difficulties of the case, so that every one thinks that the possible merit of some of the designs will be no bar against the rejection of them all, and the loss of all the labor given to the competition.

A seventh objection is to the site, which no one approves. As public opinion is singularly unanimous upon that point, we pass it, merely saying that it is generally held that no building for the proposed uses will ever be built at the south end of the Park.

If we contrast with this circular of invitation and specification the corresponding documents in the cases of two important competitions now going on in England, we shall find the conditions so different as to make the undertakings themselves seem radically different. These are the competitions for the new National Gallery of Fine Arts and for the law courts or "Palace of Justice;" both buildings to be in London, one on Trafalgar Square, one on the Strand near Temple Bar. In London the leading architects are known as well as the leading painters; as well, let us say, as in New York the leading lawyers are known. And they have won their position by that combination of powers—power of design, of construction, of business management, of organization—which alone can make a man a fit architect to undertake a large work. In the case of the law courts twelve leading architects or firms are invited to compete. The circular of instruction is a pamphlet of perhaps fifty large octavo pages; it is explicit in its directions and full and suggestive in its hints. There is no chance to mistake and no necessity to lose time in making further enquiries. Nine months were allowed in this instance, and the architects were expected to send in, and they have sent in, plans, elevations, sections, views of general effect, drawings of detail, models, etc.—twenty-four, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-five drawings respectively, besides models, being the offerings of different competitors. Rich and decorative buildings were expected and will be built. These drawings and models are to be the property of the Government, indeed, but the Government pays for them—eight hundred pounds sterling is to be paid to each competitor. The successful architect is to build the building and to receive five per cent. upon all outlay. The designs are exhibited to the public in an ample gallery, in which each architect had his own space allotted to him, where he has arranged his drawings and models to suit himself. The public have visited them; the London press discusses them—the literary weeklies giving pages of elaborate criticism to the designs, following up the subject week after week; and the dailies of the better class treating them with about ten times more attention than our newspaper treatment of our one annual exhibition of pictures. And now appears in *The Athenæum* an announcement that the public exhibition of designs will henceforth be only on Thursdays, and admission for members of Parliament and special visitors on Saturdays only, "the other days being needed for the labors of the commission." That last clause is, we think, of the best augury for the success of the London law courts. The reason why architects most dread the judgment of the inexperienced is because it is so likely to be hasty and reckless. If the New York commission would undertake to give a full day of eight hours and close attention to each design sent in, beside the necessary concluding discussion, they would be pretty sure to reach an approximately right decision.

Correspondence.

THE TARIFF ON BOOKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

I have no desire for the "last word," yet considering the space again occupied by "A Publisher," in pleading the cause of monopoly *vs.* cheap books, I pray you to let me state

1. That if "Bohn's libraries are known to all the reading world as purely exceptional," the exception consists in their large consumption by book buyers, and proves the hardship of raising the tariff on them from 25 per cent. to more than 50, by the absurd duty of 25 cents per pound.

2. That the assumed "worthlessness" of certain heavy books, in the critical eyes of "A Publisher," is no reason for taxing them 50 to 100 per cent. on their commercial value, and thereby excluding men who are engaged in wide and comprehensive studies from all power of enlarging their libraries.

3. That the grievance sustained by the publishers through the accidental cheapness of a few English books (reprinted here) under the present duty, is like a drop in the bucket when compared with the oppression of the whole community of American scholars by duties almost prohibitory.

4. That all the instances cited by "A Publisher" to prove the proposed duties low ones are calculated (with a solitary exception) from books chargeable with 10 cents per pound. Now nothing is more certain than the fact that the books published since 1850, and therefore to be taxed 25 cents per pound, are far more largely imported than those issued before that date. Witness Bohn's libraries, and witness also the libraries of Charpentier and the Abbé Migne, the very instances cited by "A Publisher," who rates them at 10 cents per lb., carefully ignoring the fact that most of them were published since 1850, and, therefore, his figures are to be multiplied by 2½ to arrive at the correct cost.

5. All the objections urged against the new *avoirduois* duty on the productions of the intellect remain unanswered. Its cumbersome machinery, its awkward division of parcels by an arbitrary date, its vexatious delays, its complicated problems of books reprinted and not reprinted, books printed with various dates and no dates at all, and, in short, its perfection of absurdity and unreason, fairly entitle it to the appellation of "the patent combined circumlocutory protective and prohibitive tariff."

6. Perhaps there is now little danger that a tariff which violates every principle of political economy and common sense will become a law; but would it not become our prosperous and successful publishers to remember the story of the dog and the bone in *Æsop*, and hold fast to the protection they have, rather than to invite too close a scrutiny from a sorely-taxed people by eagerly grasping for more?

VERITAS.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN NEW YORK CITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

The editorial in your paper of the 7th, under the taking title of "The Ring in the Board of Education," is founded, I assume, on what you deemed to be trustworthy information; and, being unfortunately an editorial article and not a mere communication, it may not be altogether courteous to ask you to admit a reply. The press cannot more usefully employ its power than in keeping the public schools before the public; but I need hardly remind THE NATION that, to do this fairly and effectually, the press should be well informed. The article in question contains, on its face, inconsistencies which should not have escaped your editorial eye, and leaves the attentive reader disappointed with the promising title, and still anxiously enquiring, where, after all, is the ring in the Board of Education? The misdeeds of the ward officers are mingled ingeniously with the shortcomings of the central board, so as to create a general suspicion in the minds of the public; there is an imposing array of figures, seasoned with school gossip and personal references to members of the boards; but there is nothing, not even assertion, to suggest the existence of a "Ring" in the ordinary sense of the word. It is stated that three of the members have sons employed as clerks in the Board of Education; but it is not suggested that these clerkships are unnecessary, or that the employees do not faithfully perform the duties of the office. It is stated, at the same time, as a charge of equal weight, that former members of the board are also enjoying clerkships in its gift, and, though there may be a question not of morality, but of delicacy, in reference to the employment of the relatives of members, there can be no question that persons well acquainted with the system, whose characters are known by former association with the board, are precisely those of all others who should receive such appointments. It is asserted that the public money is improvidently lavished on the smaller grammar schools; but there is no attempt to show that the members are engaged in intercepting this money on its way to the schools.

There is an implied accusation of this sort which can be disposed of by confronting your informant with himself, and contrasting two curiously inconsistent paragraphs which I quote from your article:

"For a few years after the passage of the present school law some of the most respectable citizens filled the offices; but the city officials soon found there was a *placer* to be worked at their very doors equal to any to be found on the Pacific coast. Since then we have found them from aldermen down, familiar as they are with all the jobbery and corruption found in other branches of the city government, devoting themselves to the cause of public education."

Now compare this alarming statement with the assertion almost immediately following, uttered, I may say, in the same breath:

"That the vote cast for the school ticket should be rarely more than, and often under, one-half of the regular vote of the city, shows how slight is the interest the public take in the matter."

If this is true, we have for the first time in our city a number of lucrative offices put to vote and no scramble for them. Our people feel deeply and vote largely for a register of deeds, but our politicians with their keen scent

for a "*placer*," and the masses whom they control, are coldly indifferent to the nuggets lying loose around the Board of Education. The kind of evidence brought forward to convict the board of an unknown and undefined amount of corruption is equally singular. The board, you say, put an end to various local jobs "by taking from the ward trustees the power of spending more than twenty dollars a month," and one would think this looked like a good movement; there was a glimpse of good intentions, a virtuous spasm. Thereupon "one of the oldest and most efficient school officers in the city," I quote from your article, "said to the clerk of the board in his office: 'It is very fine to talk of the boards of school officers; the reform should begin here; this place is a sink of corruption, the bottom is out of it.'"

This is hearsay testimony with a vengeance, and should be a warning to the bottomless Board of Education against attempting to provide a bottom for the expenditures of the local boards. Most of our New York pick-pockets will assure you that the police system is "a sink of corruption" without any bottom. Your informant, commenting on the superintendent's account of 222,527 children taught last year in the public schools, with an average daily attendance of about 99,000, gravely announces that, according to the census of 1865, the number of children in the city is less by 16,723 than the number taught in the public schools—"a thing unparalleled in any part of the civilized world"! The explanation is simple. The 222,527 represent the number of children, taught for longer or shorter times, whose attendance is desultory, and who shift from school to school during the year, and may thus be counted more than once on the various registers. A few days ago that "bottomless" concern, the Five Points House of Industry, reported the whole number of children taught there as about 1,000, and the average daily attendance as about 300. In the same simple way I can explain the imposing column of figures which show the varying cost of children educated in the various public schools, ranging from \$21 a child up to \$56, "whereas," you say, "if properly managed, there should be a uniform cost throughout the city." Now, suppose that a principal, at a salary of \$500, has an attendance of 100, and another principal, at the same salary, has 200, the first batch of scholars will obviously cost \$5 apiece, and the second but \$2 50. Unless you can provide that each school in the city shall be attended by exactly the same number of scholars, you cannot have uniformity of cost, although the Board of Education has endeavored to meet the difficulty by providing a sliding scale of salaries, based on attendance, but necessarily neglecting fractions.

It is true that some of the small grammar schools should be consolidated and more primaries established. Your article is so far fair enough, and your remarks cannot be too often repeated. The press should hold up the school system and its officers in the broadest daylight, and should never relax its grasp; but the kind of attack into which you have been misled will only result in discouraging school officers honestly desirous of doing their duty, and repelling decent citizens from accepting an odious trust, to say nothing of its inconsistency with the character of THE NATION.

P. S.—I have overlooked the most important witness, "a professor in the leading college in the city accidentally elected commissioner from one of the up-town wards," who "being asked in relation to the existence of a 'Ring' in the board, 'Why, you knock your head against it when you enter the room,' was the reply." Was this experienced gentleman stunned and bewildered for life by the collision? If not, why did he, after nine months' attendance, address the board, or rather the "Ring," which, to be of such dimensions, must have comprised a majority of his colleagues, in the following terms? I quote from his letter of resignation to President McLean, dated Oct. 17, 1865: "In taking leave of the board I beg you, sir, to tender my sincere regard to my colleagues, between whom and myself there have always subsisted the relations of kindness and respectful candor. Permit me to include in this tender of my regard the officers of our board, and accept for yourself the assurance of my high esteem. If at any future time it should appear that I can be of any service to the board and the cause of education, I beg that you will dispose of me." Unless this witness has been misunderstood, which is no doubt the case, I have complied with his farewell request, and "disposed of" him.

M. W.

[Our correspondent does not refute a single statement in our article; even the inconsistencies which he fancies he discovers do not exist. The struggle for office is in the nominating conventions, not at the polls. Even the office of "register of deeds," which he cites as an example, has excited no interest since Gulick ran as the firemen's candidate. The fact remains that city officials are members of the board, and it is their misfortune that the public does not believe they are there from

honest, to say nothing of disinterested, motives. Neither does it consider nepotism more respectable in the Board of Education than elsewhere.

He should also bear in mind that the words of the learned professor are not to be taken literally. The "Ring"—the existence of which our correspondent does not himself deny—though generally admitted, is not obvious. The public are in the condition of the country clown, who knew that the miller's hogs got fat, but did not know whose corn they ate.

The explanation that the 222,527 children alleged to be taught in the schools—the 1,000 of the Five Points House of Industry is included in this number—are made up by counting the same children several times over, shows it to be, as we stated, a fraud on the law, which reads: "But the aggregate amount so reported shall not exceed the sum of eight dollars for each pupil who shall have actually attended and been taught in the schools entitled to participate in the apportionment."

Under this, the Board of Education were entitled last year to \$693,392, whereas by their peculiar system of computation they got \$1,628,120, defrauding the tax-payers of \$934,728. The number of scholars contributed by the corporate schools towards raising the \$1,628,120 was 13,440 (actual number 5,183), and the amount paid them by the Board of Education was \$37,673 74, or a fraction over \$2 80 per scholar.

A bill has just passed the Assembly giving the board two dollars additional per scholar and increasing the taxes some \$420,000. Our legislators at Albany seem to ignore the fact that the one and one-quarter mill tax for schools throughout the State which has just been voted, will give the Board of Education some \$350,000 more than last year, which ought to render this additional rate unnecessary. Will not the Senate or the Governor see to this? The board will cost the city this year considerably over \$3,000,000.

Our correspondent does not seem to be aware that the cost of this unpaid board is within a fraction of \$1 12 on every scholar taught in the public schools.—ED. NATION.]

A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

I have *not* proposed the abolition of the "Presidency, the Supreme Court, and the U. S. Senate as the three remaining oligarchies." I advocated the impeachment of the President, not the destruction of his office; the reconstruction of the Supreme Court on democratic principles, and either the abolition of the Senate or its reorganization. If the President has exceeded his power and violated the Constitution—as, *individually*, the majority of Congress believe—then I hold that members have no right to view the question of impeachment as one of party expediency. They are bound by their oath of office to impeach him. It is the same lack of moral courage which Congress has shown that constantly defeats the best purposes of the people in political life. Here in Massachusetts, for example, we have the same farce, in an abridged version, on the legislative boards. The Legislature enacted a prohibitory law. The governor does *not* enforce it. The constabulary—created for the express purpose of carrying it out—coolly imitate Mr. Johnson's policy (before Congress met), and undertake to decide how much of the law *they* shall enforce! The party which defies the law petitions for a license act. The prohibitory party resist. That is all. But if they were in earnest, they would either impeach the governor for not executing the law or order him imperatively to appoint a constable who would do it. As it is, National Chief Constable A. Johnson goes unwhipped of justice; and

State Chief Constable Bullock permits a thousand grog-shops within a few miles of his headquarters to violate the law with impunity—the law which he has solemnly sworn to enforce—while the friends of that statute look helplessly on, as if they were powerless to compel their servant to do his duty. It seems to me that America needs to teach her male domestics of public life what Cromwell, according to the elder Boswell, taught monarchs—"he gart kings to ken they had a *lilt* in their necks"—that whoever fails to do his duty shall be removed at once, just as any other hired servant in private life would be.

As to the other points, I advocated the election of the judges of the Supreme Court for a stated term of years by the whole body of the people; and (as I see no reason why a man in Rhode Island or Florida should have greater power in any department of a democratic government than a man in New York or Pennsylvania) I urged that U. S. Senators should be chosen by popular suffrage from equal senatorial districts, or that the upper branch of Congress, as an unnecessary limb of legislation, be quietly lopped off. What is the use of it?

The third oligarchy was the regular army as now organized. West Point needs reconstruction as much as the South.

Yours,

JAMES REDPATH.

Boston, March 30, 1867.

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What is a Sewing Machine?

It is a machine for making clothing and doing sewing of all kinds.

Does it make the same kind of stitch that a lady makes with her needle?

No; it makes other kinds.

What are they called?

"Lock Stitch," "Chain Stitch," and "Double Chain Stitch."

What is the difference?

Here is a picture of the Lock Stitch, as the thread looks when stitched into the cloth, only this is made larger and coarser than you may see it better:



No. 1.—LOCK STITCH.

It is made with two threads, one on each side of the cloth, and "locked" together in the centre. Hence it is called the "Lock Stitch." It cannot be pulled out nor unravelled, and there is only a single line of thread on each side of the seam.

Is the seam strong and firm?

Yes; just as firm as the cloth when properly made. It is the principal stitch made by sewing machines since their first invention.

How much thread does it take for a yard of seam?

About two yards and one-half.

What is the principal machine that makes the Lock Stitch?

THE WHEELER & WILSON MACHINE.

What is the "Chain Stitch"?

Here is a picture of it:



No. 2.—CHAIN STITCH.

It is such a stitch as the ladies make in knitting and crocheting, and it can be unravelled in the same way.

Is it much used in sewing?

No; because the seams made with it pull out so easily. Think of garments coming apart when one is in the street.

How much thread does it take for a yard of seam?

About four and a half yards; or nearly twice as much as the "Lock Stitch."

What is the principal machine making this stitch?

The Willcox & Gibbs.

What is the "Double Chain Stitch"?

It is very much like the Single Chain Stitch, but is made with two threads.

Here is a picture of it



No. 3.—DOUBLE CHAIN STITCH.

Can it be unravelled?

Yes; and shows a ridge on one side.

What makes that ridge on the under side of the seam?

It is the looping and knotting of the two threads used.

Does that do any harm?

Yes; it wears off when garments are washed and ironed. It does not look well unless used as embroidery.

No one would like a handkerchief hemmed with it, or any seam made that shows. A handsome stitch, you know, only shows a single line of thread.

How much thread does it take for a yard of seam?

About six and one-half (6½) yards. The most of any machine.

What machine makes this stitch?

The Grover & Baker.

Who use Sewing Machines?

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Cloth Pants.....	0	51	5	19
Summer Pants.....	0	38	2	59
Silk Dress.....	1	13	8	27
Merino Dress.....	1	4	8	27
Calico Dress.....	0	57	6	37
Chemise.....	1	1	10	31
Moreen Skirt.....	0	35	7	28
Muslin Skirt.....	0	30	7	1
Drawers.....	0	23	4	6
Night Dress.....	1	7	10	2
Silk Apron.....	0	15	4	16
Plain Apron.....	0	9	1	26

NUMBER OF STITCHES MADE PER MINUTE.

	By Hand.	With Machine.	Ratio.
Stitching fine Linen.....	23	640	28
Stitching Satin.....	24	520	22
Stitching Silk.....	30	550	18
Seaming fine Cloth.....	18	594	15
Patent Leather, fine Stitching	7	175	25
Fitting Ladies' Gaiters.....	23	510	18
Stitching Shoe Vamps.....	10	210	21
Binding Hats.....	33	374	11

When the machines are driven by power, the ratio is much higher—1,500 and 2,000 stitches per minute not being an unusual average.

Think how much time is saved by using the machines.

MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS.

The proportion of thread used in making the various stitches is as follows:

"Lock Stitch," 1; "Chain Stitch," 1 8-10ths; "Double Chain Stitch," 2 5-10ths.

Prob. 1. If a "Lock Stitch" machine uses 10 cents worth of thread and silk in a day, how much would it use in a year of 300 working days. Answer, \$30.

Prob. 2. How much would a "Chain Stitch" machine use in doing the same amount of sewing? Ans. \$50 worth.

Prob. 3. How much would a "Double Chain Stitch" machine use in doing the same amount of sewing? Ans. \$75 worth.

Prob. 4. There will be ultimately at least a million of sewing machines used in the country; at the above rate, what value of thread and silk would be used annually if all of one kind were used? Ans. "Lock Stitch," \$30,000,000; "Chain Stitch," \$54,000,000; "Double Chain Stitch," \$75,000,000.

Prob. 5. What value of thread would be wasted by the "Chain Stitch"? Ans. \$24,000,000.

Prob. 6. What value would be wasted by the "Double Chain Stitch"? Ans. \$45,000,000.

Prob. 7. If there be 6,000,000 of families in the United States, how much would it cost to send each a weekly newspaper at \$1 50? Ans. \$9,000,000.

Prob. 8. How much to send a monthly magazine at \$2? Ans. \$12,000,000.

Prob. 9. How much would remain of the \$45,000,000 of waste, for Missionary, Educational, and Charitable purposes? Ans. \$24,000,000.

Is it wicked to waste things? Yes.

Then what sewing machine should be used? Ans. "WHEELER & WILSON'S LOCK STITCH SEWING MACHINE."

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LIST OF LOSSES PAID ON MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED DURING THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1866.

AGE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION.	AMOUNT INSURED.
20	Joseph A. Southard,	Richmond, Me.,	Ship Master,	\$2,000
22	Evander O. Tozier,	Boston, Mass.,	Tailor,	2,150
25	Chas. S. Stephenson,	New York, N. Y.,	Ship Broker,	2,000
25	John A. Curtis,	New York, N. Y.,	Auctioneer,	5,400
27	John A. Curtis,	New York, N. Y.,	Auctioneer,	2,500
28	Thomas J. Willard,	Portland, Me.,	Master Mariner,	3,000
28	Edwin H. Rand,	Charlestown, Mass.,	Clerk,	2,000
40	Thomas S. Foster,	Gardiner, Me.,	Merchant Tailor,	2,000
24	Eden P. Foster,	Jackson, Mich.,	Jeweller,	2,100
34	Calvin M. Burbank,	Lawrence, Mass.,	Clerk,	2,000
51	John W. Crafts,	South Boston, Mass.,	Provision Dealer,	10,000
33	Samuel W. Bliss,	Boston, Mass.,	Fruit Dealer,	2,400
35	Richard Turtle,	Chicago, Ill.,	Provision Merchant,	2,000
47	Francis Winter,	New York, N. Y.,	Lock Manufacturer,	3,000
31	D. B. Cunningham,	New York, N. Y.,	Merchant,	3,000
41	Robert N. Corning,	Concord, N. H.,	Railroad Contractor,	2,000
57	Saml. M. Candler,	Brooklyn, N. Y.,	Custom House Clerk,	2,500
40	Charles Lins,	Ashland, Pa.,	Druggist,	3,000
27	Francis Fischer,	Louisville, Ky.,	Hatter,	5,000
26	Zeno Kelly,	West Barnstable, Mass.,	Master Mariner,	1,500
43	Johus Helmann,	New York, N. Y.,	Carriage Maker,	2,000
49	George Draper,	New York, N. Y.,	Clothing Merchant,	2,000
26	Philauder M. Chase,	Charlestown, Mass.,	Milkman,	2,000
43	Henry Fishback,	Carlinville, Ill.,	Merchant,	3,000
23	A. C. Sutherland,	Detroit, Mich.,	Book-keeper,	1,800
30	Charles E. Poole,	Pittston, Pa.,	Coal Agent,	2,500
39	Emanuel W. Mace,	Chicago, Ill.,	Cigar Manufacturer,	2,000
27	Robert Clough,	Chicago, Ill.,	Stone Cutter,	2,000
20	Ellen Clough,	Chicago, Ill.,	Wife,	2,000
23	Robert H. Howe,	St. Louis, Mo.,	Agent,	5,000
19	George H. Dunlap,	Brunswick, Me.,	Gentleman,	10,000
49	Thomas W. Samis,	Boston, Mass.,	Merchant,	5,000
28	Issachai H. Brown,	Troy, N. Y.,	Druggist,	1,500
27	Zelotes W. Knowles,	Addison, Me.,	Master Mariner,	3,000
69	Lewis Wm. H. Gless,	Baltimore, Md.,	Merchant,	4,000
30	Eliakim W. Ford,	Albany, N. Y.,	Merchant,	3,000

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